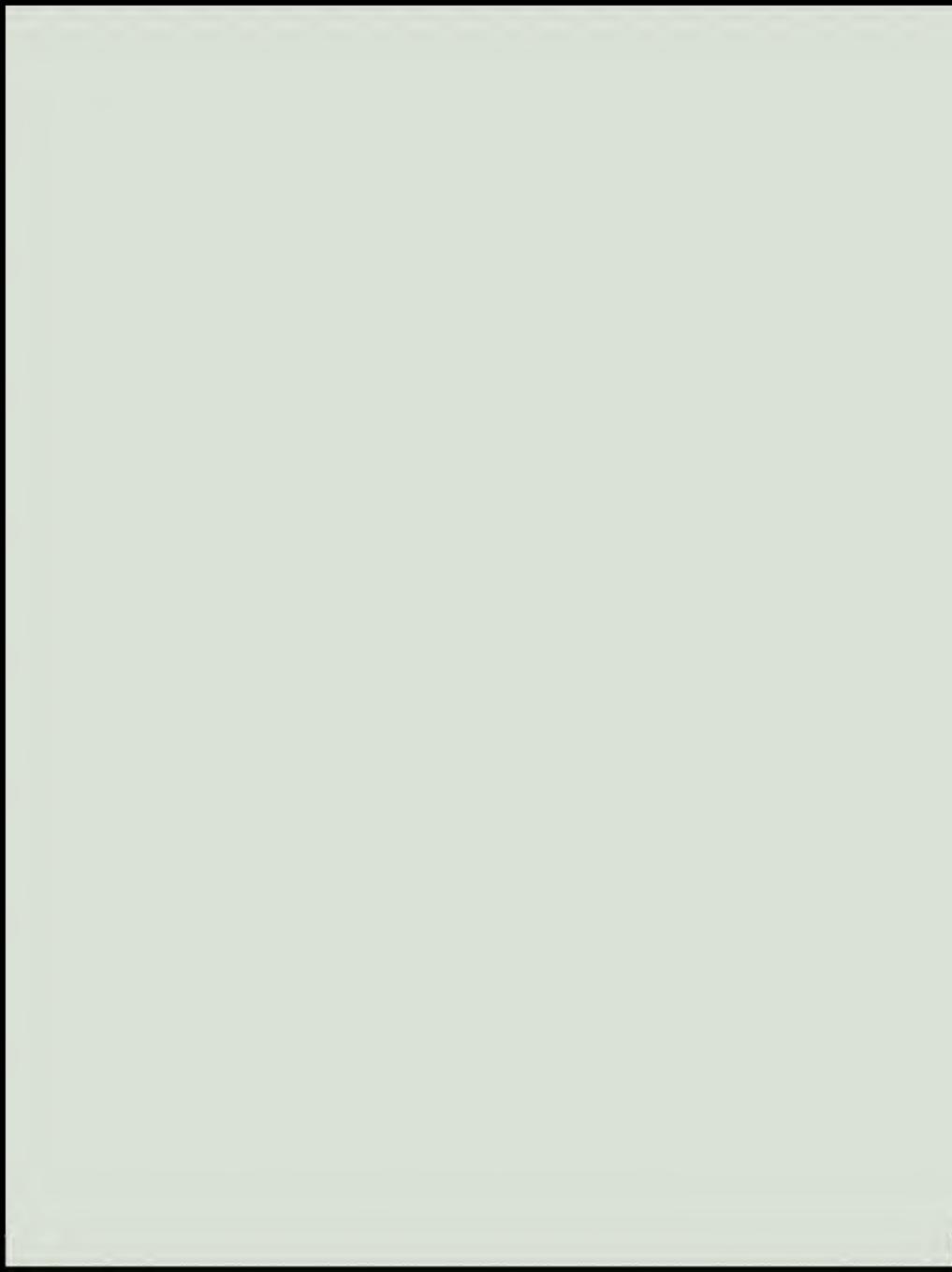


*Leaping an
impression*



Leaving an impression

<i>Clubs</i>	<i>attitude</i>	6
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Leaving an impression



Merrilloue 2000

Merrillville High School
276 East 68th Place
Merrillville IN 46410
219-650-5307
Enrollment 2014



A special moment shared with a friend always makes an impression on one's life and memory. Desiree Roman and India Diggins find time to display their bond of friendship.

Tradition Continues

As seconds ticked off the clock toward the year 2000, many people wondered what the new millennium would hold. People, like science teacher Miles Dunscombe, wondered if their computers would crash or the power would go out. However, many still continued their New Year's tradition by making new resolutions and goals.

The administration had many goals that they hoped to accomplish in the new millennium. One shocking goal was that Assistant Principal Jan Minor would like "a change of careers." However, she also said, "If my only job was to just work with the students, I would never want to change careers." She believed that the students were "the greatest in the world."

The students also had goals. Tracy Ferguson, '00, summed

up hers as "going to college, getting a new car, going to and graduating from college, getting a well-paying job, and eventually getting married."

Marriage was a plan for others as well. Tony Domelle, '00, planned on marrying his high school sweetheart, Leslie Newell, '00.

As we entered this new millennium, many had set high expectations for what it would hold.



Trying to excite the crowd with shouts from behind his megaphone is the job of this cheerleader during one of the Pirate football games.

Frozen

The new millennium creates a memory for everyone

Moment

"**THINGS** do not change. We change." —Henry David Thoreau

THE NIGHT was a deep and impenetrable cloak of black, but the air was crisp and full of excitement. You were at a party with confetti flying everywhere or at home spending quality time with your family.

WHEREVER you were, though, each one was probably counting down the minutes, and, finally, the seconds until it became January 1, 2000.

**T H E
CHANGING** of the millennium was certainly one of the most massive changes that we had the opportunity to witness.

FOR THE SENIORS.

they had the privilege to graduate during the phenomenal milestone.

WHETHER or not you were a senior, the altering of the date, and, in retrospect, the world, affected each person in his or her own personal way.

SOME PEOPLE changed their clothing and hairstyles, while others looked inward to change their attitude toward life and goals for the future.

FILLED WITH joyous laughter, as well as heartbreaking tears, the school year itself was also full of many changes, and we shared a plentiful amount of emotions together.



— SPREAD BY TIFFANY STOCHEL AND JACOB CAMP



Seeing German teacher Edie Fisher kiss a pig was worth every cent. Students donated money to one of the nominated teachers; the one earning the most got the honor of puckering up to the porker.



Eryn Van Loon works hard for her money as she folds and straightens clothes at The Buckle.



Jeff Both pairs with his trumpet to produce an air of sweet music with the band during a football game performance.

Ricky Bobos concentrates on returning the ball to his opponent. Bobos and partner Nick Corea were able to advance to the Regional competition.

An AP Chemistry lab keeps all the attention of Mahogany Mead, as she examines the experiment through a pair of safety goggles.

Matt Rivera's Duane Wilson takes an angry fist to Josh Gaborn's Elwood Dowd in the fall production of "Harvey."

Using all his strength, David Rooda lifts some cans to be transported for the food drive.



A job is an important part of many students' lives. As she folds clothes at Aeropostale, Melissa Johnston proves that she has learned the value of a dollar.

With the violin nestled gently on her shoulder, Lauren Homola helps to create some beautiful music.



Jason Nolan and Brad Woodward have no problem getting their hands dirty working on their ceramics projects.



Memory Lane

The year brought much news, from the tragic to the exciting

Lane

THE ARRIVAL of several new teachers paved the way for other memorable changes throughout the year, both in and out of school. These teachers came from a myriad of different backgrounds, and their expertise was focused in just as many different fields of education.

THE SHOCKING and tragic news of the death of our former principal was delivered early in the year. It saddened everyone, but especially those individuals who had the opportunity to know him well. For those who only knew Forrest "Dusty" Rhode in a casual sense, they will continue to remember his famous words that rang out clear each day:

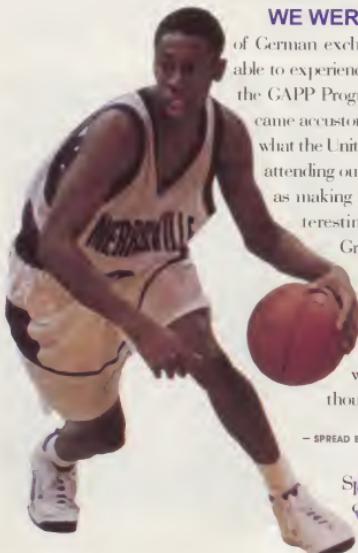
"You Deserve It!"

WE WERE also visited by a group of German exchange students who were able to experience our country by way of the GAPP Program. These students became accustomed to and got a sense of what the United States was all about by attending our academic classes as well as making frequent field trips to interesting local places, such as Great America and Chicago.

AS THE YEAR and the millennium changed, each person hopefully walked away with his or her own special thoughts and memories.

— SPREAD BY TIFFANY STOCHEL AND JACOB CAMP

Speed, agility, and dexterity help describe Marvin Smith as he outsmarts his opponent and moves the ball down the court.



TOP Stories of the Millennium

Just as each individual experienced his or her own personal achievements and tragedies over the past millennium, there were also some memorable events that took place throughout the entire world.



In fact, during the last century of the millennium, many incidents grabbed the attention of the majority of the human population. Here are some of the top news stories of the century. Maybe you remember reading about them in history books or actually experiencing and reacting to them.

- 1903 - Wright's fly first airplane
- 1912 - Titanic sinks
- 1918 - World War I ends
- 1920 - U.S. women win right to vote
- 1928 - discovery of penicillin
- 1939 - official U.S. debut of TV
- 1941 - Japan bombs Pearl Harbor
- 1945 - Nazi Holocaust exposed
- 1957 - Soviets launch first satellite
- 1963 - JFK assassinated
- 1969 - men first walk on the moon
- 1978 - first "test-tube baby"
- 1981 - deadly AIDS identified
- 1989 - World Wide Web invented
- 1997 - Scientists clone sheep
- 1998 - Clinton impeached



Twister brings much fun and excitement as Erin McGee flashes a huge smile in a game with some kids during SADD's Halloween Fun Fair.

WHAT CLUB WERE
YOU MOST INVOLVED
IN AND WHY?



"Drama, it's a lot of fun and nice people, and I like performing."

- DEE NEYLON, '02

"Key Club, because I have been with it the longest and have participated in a wide variety of events. Helping people always brings me pleasure."

- ALEKSANDAR
GORESKI, '00



"Student Government because it's fun, and I care about what goes on in the school."

- DIANE HUGHES,
'03



Morgan Palmateer takes some time out to help prepare a float for the football Homecoming's parade and float contest.

Special moments last forever as Evan Hoglund and his date hold each other close at the annual Turnabout Dance.



Leaving an impression

ATTITUDE

SHE WAS known as the ice queen, with a chilling look in her eye and a shivering attitude to go with it. Her brother was just the opposite. He projected a warm, cheery smile wherever he went that drew his peers in like a magnet.

A PERSON'S attitude makes an impression on others. This attitude is developed through the activities that one is involved in.

THE NATURAL Helpers focused much of their time impressing on the students the idea of broken hearts and relationships through mistreatment and lack of knowledge.

THE NEWLY formed W.I.T.T. club. We're in This Together, helped bring students with cultural differences together to improve and form friendships.

FEA AGAIN sponsored the Turnabout Dance, during which the ladies left an impression on their dates by asking them to the event.

THESE ARE just a few of the numerous opportunities that students could take advantage of to become active and leave an impression.

—SPREAD BY TIFFANY STOCHEL AND JACOB CAMP

In a unique style, Ray Keilman takes advantage of a classic pose to display his threads during Spirit Week.



Let's win it ALL

If a stranger was to walk down the halls of MHS for the first time between September 21-24, he would have undoubtedly gotten the impression of a spirited school.

Spectators had to continually dodge the candy thrown at them from participants of the "Nightmare on Broadway" parade. The floats were original and elaborate, but the seniors' float rose above the rest. The spirit game contests began after the parade. Amy Watts said, "My favorite game to watch was the pudding slide, but I was in Twister and lost because the freshmen pushed me down." Sean Mitchell helped his class win a round of the pudding slide contest by hurling his body four feet in the air to get a good start. Mitchell explained, "I knew what I was doing because I was in it last year." However, the seniors won the contests and celebrated by drenching themselves in pudding.

The LaPorte Slicers went home with sad faces as the Pirates clenched the victory in a nail-biting game of football, scoring 12 points in the last five minutes of the game to win.

An exciting half-time show included naming Ryan Drilla Mr. Football and introducing the Homecoming Queen candidates. They included Robin Childress, Beth Elliot, Jacky VanDusseldorf, Courtney Parsons, and Michelle Uremovich, who was crowned as the queen.

"Sweet Dreams" lasted all night on the Saturday of the dance. Student Government sponsored the dance and was pleased with the large turnout of approximately 250 couples.

— SPREAD BY KRISI MERSOT, RANDY KOMENDA, BLYTHE BERTOLO, AND ROSA URIBE



Spectators watch a messy Chris Chamberlin celebrate his defeat in the pudding slide during the class games.

8 Clubs and Organizations

Al Stupic and Steve Giffen enter the dance, "Sweet Dreams," hand in hand.



At the homecoming dance crowds of people bust a move on the dance floor. They smile, laugh, and create new memories with their friends.





Senior Class President Ray Kellman dresses like a pirate to display school spirit during the parade.

A group of friends lack a train around the dance floor.



After being crowned homecoming queen Michelle Urenovich excitedly answers questions asked by sportscaster Tim Weigl. Weigl featured the Pirate's homecoming game on his 10 p.m. sports segment on WBBM channel 2 in Chicago.

Which day out of Homecoming week was your favorite and why?



"The parade because I enjoy seeing creativity."

Dick Ebler, Faculty

"Pajama day because I didn't have to take a shower in the morning."

Marco Bravo, '00



Assistant Principal
Dave DeMuth takes
a cookie from
teacher Shelly
Kavois's costume.

Jessica Malis smiles
in the doors SADD
Club members
decorated for Red
Ribbon Week.



Carri Hansbury fixes a blindfold on an elementary student who was preparing to play the bobber game at the Natural Helper's booth at the Red Ribbon Week Halloween Fun Fair.

What did you get out of helping out at the Halloween Fun Fair?



"It was a lot of fun, and I enjoyed it."

Adam Stetson, '03



"I just enjoyed seeing the students as a whole getting together to reach out to children and to work together towards community enjoyment."

Brandi Lewis, '00





We're seeing RED

The traditional activities teamed with the original to create and present a meaningful message about saying "No" to drugs alcohol, and destructive decisions

There's no better lesson about drugs than hearing the words of your peers saying no to drugs.

Red Ribbon Week started on Monday, October 25 and lasted for only three days. The week's activities were always sponsored by S.A.D.D. in hope of keeping students from drinking or taking drugs and making them aware of the effects.

Only having three days was a hindrance to what they wanted to do and how many activities they could have during Red Ribbon Week. The year's activities included a short video that was shown during everyone's fourth hour. The video included some MHS students acting a part and telling a story about the use of drugs, their experiences and the effects it had on them. After each short story the student then blew out a candle and was left in the dark to symbolize their death due to drugs and alcohol. They also had the usual candlelight walk and spirit point week that were meant to get the school to work together. A new activity was the Fun Fair hosted by the S.A.D.D. club.

In honor of Red Ribbon Week, the S.A.D.D. Club painted the windows of the main entrance to the school. They also handed out the annual red ribbons for students to wear or pin on their book bags. Students were also handed a small piece of paper to sign their name saying they promised to be drug free. Those papers were then folded and hung around the library in support of Red Ribbon Week.

— SPREAD BY TOWANDA HAMMONDS, NICOLE BROWN, AMY MULLOY, AND MARYANN

FOTIS



Mary Grace, guidance and art teacher Wanda Rice draw a washable tattoo on a student's hand. Art Club members were also painting faces.



Angela Escobedo hands a child a treat during the Halloween Fun Fair. **S**tudents walk in honor of victims of violence. The burning candles symbolize the honor of being drug free.

Two wins in ONE

Much success surrounded Basketball Homecoming, with the Hot Legs contest, the Most Peppy Pirate, and a victory over the Gladiators.

Basketball Homecoming was a night to remember. The crowd cheered constantly to cheer the Pirates on to a victory over the Bishop Noll Gladiators. It was an exciting week for the Pirates mainly because of the continuous support of the students attending the basketball game.

The game wasn't the only event that brought Basketball Homecoming to life. Many different events occurred during the spirit week. We all knew that the fans were the prime factor in keeping the "Homecoming Spirit" alive. For this reason, the Pirates decided to present an award to the "Most Peppy Pirate." The winner of the new spirit award was Andrea Franz, '00.

Along with this event, one of the most memorable events was the ever popular "Hot Legs" contest. The purpose of this contest was for crowd to vote for the male with the best legs by applauding. Josh Mehay, '00, got the most recognition with his legs and won the contest.

Throughout all of the cheering and outrageous performances by the students, they were consistent in showing respect for our school and acting mature.

Overall, Homecoming Spirit Week was a victory in itself. We hope to have another successful one next year.

— SPREAD BY KRISI MERSOT, MANDY KOMENDA, BLYTHE BERTOLO, AND ROSA URIBE



Andrea Franz walks away with a trophy after being named the Most Peppy Pirate.



Jake Argenta stretches toward the basket as he sinks another jump shot.

Ramesses Montgomery never passes up the opportunity to dunk. He improved over time and still has another year to show what he's got.





Lonnie Randolph won't let anyone get in his way on the court.

Josh Mehay flashes a grin after being announced as winner of the Hot Legs contest.



Justin Johnson loves to show his skills and managed to dunk the ball almost every time he played. He stepped up this year and helped the team gain a few extra points each time he played.

Amy Taylor and Nick Walter enjoy their first Turnabout Dance along with other freshman.

Aaron Powell and Krystal Catania take a break from the dance to get their picture taken.



Fred Thiel and Renee Bryant enjoy a slow dance together, as their high school dances come to a close.

What was the highlight of your night at the Turnabout Dance?



“Being able to see Conor Harrison in a dress.”

Brian Rodriguez, '00

“The highlight of my night was being with my friends and my girlfriend Jocelyn Blanchard.”

Kendall Martin, '00





Girls get to ASK

Every year the Turnabout Dance gives males a break from taking charge and leaves the pressure on the females to do the asking and make all the decisions for the night.

O

Once a year, girls at Merrillville High School were given a chance to get brave and ask that special someone on a date. This special day was on December 11, at the Turnabout, the last dance of the century. All of the excitement took place in the cafeteria. The room was filled with silver and black decorations, bright lights, colorful balloons, the DJ, and all of the people. Although some found it hard to fit many people in this area, there ended up being plenty of room for the students to dance.

This dance was arranged by the FEA, Future Educators of America. Science teacher and club sponsor Patti (Dudak) Robison was in charge of the arrangements. The club which was organized to give students an idea of what it was like to be a teacher sponsored the event annually.

There mainly seemed to be underclassmen who attended this dance. Tiffany Yates, '01, said, "It was one of my most memorable dances here at MHS. There were fast songs that you could just dance to, and then there were slow romantic songs that you gave you a chance to get close to your date." Many people felt the DJ had a big part in making this dance a success.

Fred Thiel went with his girlfriend, Renee Bryant, both '00. He said, "I am glad that I went with Renee. It was a relaxing night. There wasn't a lot of people there, which was good because it wasn't overcrowded." Dances like this one gave the students a chance to get away from the pressures of school.

— SPREAD BY RANDI GUERNSEY, NICOLE BROWN, JENNIFER VILLARS, AND LACARA BAZZIEL

A group of couples slow dance together. Many found that with a group of friends, the evening seemed to be more lively.



Samanthia Sullivan smiles at Mark Kivles at her first Turnabout dance.



Kristi Heflin and Suad Abdillah are all smiles as they choose a picture packet before their Turnabout pictures.

We'll make it FUN

It's not about who wins and who loses. It's all about having fun. With many exciting events to take part in, the Special Olympics proved to be memorable.

Welcome to the main event. It involved agility, intelligence, teamwork, and, most of all, fun! This annual occasion was known as the Special Olympics, and it gave students in the Special Education Department an opportunity to prove that they could perform some difficult tasks and come out as winners.

The Special Olympics were an outstanding way for the students to get involved in a variety of activities. The group took a trip to the slopes of Paoli Peaks in French Lick and skied their way to earning several medals in the process.

Many students also learned a trick or two in the bowling alley. They competed at the Special Olympic bowling tournament at the Stardust Bowling Alley in Merrillville. Then, after a victorious day, they were able to compete in bowling at the State Meet in Indianapolis.

Other highlights of the Special Olympics included wheelchair basketball, and certain track events. These track meets occurred at Lowell High School and helped the students show off their strength and endurance.

Teachers Melissa Szczerba and Barb Dlouhy provided guidance for the students who competed. Some of the students involved in the Special Olympics were Jason Shapiro, Edward McCollum, Mike Janeczko, Phillip Oh, Erin Coughlin, Becca Robinson, and Greg Refner.

These students definitely showed how special they were through their energy and confidence. With their efforts, they represented their school well and made many people proud!

— SPREAD BY KRISSE MERSOT, MANDY KOMENDA, BLYTHE BERTOLO, ROSA URIBE, AND TIFFANY STOCHEL



Jason Shapiro keeps an eye on the scoreboard while Edward McCollum finishes his turn at the pins.



Bbecca Robinson runs her turn to run her leg of the relay race.

Sporting a Lowell Red Devils jersey, Edward McCollum grabs for a towel after completing his event. McCollum and other students played in a unified school team event at Lowell High School.





T
This special group of students finally takes a break from their hard work to pose for one shot of everyone together.

M
Merrillville students run their hardest in a track event.



Participating at the State Bowling Competition in Indianapolis was a highlight of the Special Olympics. It took place in December of 1999 and required the entire Merrillville squad to work together. One of the devoted members was Erin Coughlin, who proceeds to the ball return after her shot.

Special Olympics

- Special Olympics began in 1968 when Eunice Kennedy Shriver organized the First International Special Olympic Games at Soldier Field in Chicago.
- Special Olympics provides year-round training and athletic competition for more than one million athletes in nearly 150 countries and all 50 states in the United States.
- The Special Olympics oath is . . . "Let me win. But if I cannot win, let me be brave in the attempt."
- Special Olympics athletes compete in 26 sports — both Olympic sports and nationally popular sports.
- Special Olympics holds competitions at the local, state, national, regional, and world levels.

The dance gave students the chance to move to the music as well as socialize.

Amy Pivovarnik shares a special and private moment with her date.



Having fun at the Valentine's Dance was not just reserved for the students. Teacher Betty Lou Barsley-Marra gets involved with the dance and displays her moves for two students.





You're in my HEART

The Valentine's Dance gave the inclusion students, as well as the rest of the student body, an enjoyable evening spent with that special someone.

Valentine's Day was the time of year when people showed that special someone what they meant to them and how much they cared. It was also the time of year when the FCCLA sponsored its annual Valentine Dances.

It was a unique occasion because the event took place over two consecutive evenings. On Friday, February 11, Master of Ceremonies Matt Cunningham, '01, helped present the Valentine Inclusion Dance, which gave the inclusion students an opportunity to have their very own dance. It was such a big occurrence that it was almost as if it was the Prom to those students involved.

Then, on Saturday, February 12, the rest of the student body was invited to the MHS Valentine's Dance, "You'll Be In My Heart." It was held in the cafeteria, which was decorated with red and white balloons, streamers, and heart-covered paper. The special guest was DJ Jammin' Juan Rios, and he kept the music going all night long.

FCCLA President David Mesarch, '00, took charge of the whole event. He commented, "The Valentine's Dance was a big success. Everyone who came had a great time. I'm really happy that we have had the opportunity to sponsor this [inclusion] dance for the past seven years because it allows the special education students to have a good time without being criticized."

— SPREAD BY TIFFANY STOCHEL

AAmber Solomon gets comfortable with her long-time boyfriend Jason Burnell by going barefoot on the dance floor.



JJulie Lesniak and Brandon McVade combine style and smiles at the dance.



BBesides dancing, the Valentine's Dance provided food, relaxation, and time spent with friends.

So much time and energy were spent on preparing for one night. The Prom was here and gone so quickly, but it still left an impression on the memory.

All over SO FAST

The time came to dress up in your finest threads and parade in front of a huge crowd of onlookers. The time has come to dance the night away. The time came to be with a special someone. The time came to enjoy Prom.

For weeks, the excitement of Prom hung thickly in the air and ran quickly through the veins of all those involved. Girls made hair and nail appointments and went shopping for countless hours in order to find the perfect dress. Guys had a bit less stress, but they still had to choose their tuxedos, as well as make dinner and picture reservations.

Whether a couple decided to not spend much money or to go all out on every detail, the night was unique and memorable for each person. First, the students gathered in the Hall of Flags. Then, Cheryl Hoagland was announced as the Prom Queen, and Lonnie Randolph became the new Prom King. The duo led the rest of the prom-goers through the Grand March, during which many family members and friends took numerous pictures as a memory of the evening.

The actual Prom was held at the Hellenic Cultural Center. While no dinner was served, a variety of hors d'oeuvres were available for those who needed a break from the dance floor. Many songs, including the theme song, "I Do Cherish You," were played, and some dancing activities were planned by the DJ. Overall, an event that had been building excitement for months ended in one quick, fabulous, and magical evening.

— SPREAD BY TIFFANY STOCHEL



Waiting in the Hall of Flags for the Grand March to begin was the first event of Prom night.



Mike Zelisko and Lisa Farver display their own unique sense of style.

*C*omplete with a glittering dress, and smiles to match, newly crowned Lonnie Randolph and Cheryl Hoagland lead the Grand March.





Staying to the music, Ryan Jezuit and Katie Smith hold each other close and enjoy a moment together.

A group of friends show their moves on the dance floor.



April Skura and Kelly Bowen make time to visit with friends, as well as grooving to the music. Many would rather dance to fast rhythms, while others greatly preferred the slow songs. Whatever the preference, the DJ helped make Prom enjoyable for everyone.

Let's all DREAM

Nearly 32 years after his death, MHS students honor Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and strive to keep his dream alive in their community.

On a day when many other students stayed home from school, members of the WITT club, We're in This Together, gathered to celebrate the life of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. with their "Living the Dream" program.

The program held on Martin Luther King Day offered students a chance to study King's life and gave them a chance to listen to reflections from parents and others who remembered segregation and the civil rights movement, a time before members of the club were born. Club members presented dramatic readings and talked about their feelings about King and his accomplishments. The Inspirational Choir also performed as part of the program.

Club president Kendall Martin, '00, said, "Dr. King was a leader. He was a role model. He tried to fight for equal rights, and being here right now says something."

Danah Frazier, '00, told a newspaper reporter covering the event, "Being in a diverse school now, we are doing what Dr. King talked about. Back in those days, whites didn't have the opportunity to know us. Now that they know us, they see that we're not what everybody else says we are."

However, a lack of diversity in the club's membership concerned club sponsor and English teacher Viveca Carter since the purpose of the club was to promote interaction between students of different cultures.

— SPREAD BY KRISI MERSOT, MANDY KOMENDA, BLYTHE BERTOLO, AND ROSA URIBE



About 60 spectators attend the "Living the Dream" program honoring Martin Luther King Day in the Arena.

22 Clubs and Organizations



Community members told the students their memories of Dr. King's life.

A student performs Dr. Martin Luther King's "I Have a Dream" speech as part of WITT's "Living the Dream" celebration of King's birthday.





A student reads a poem. Students of all races and cultures are welcome in WITT club.

Adam Pierce reflects on the life of Martin Luther King.



A Michael Cobb takes part in the "Living the Dream" program. The program was organized by the students, who gave up their free time to practice and present it.

Kids VS. the STAFF

At the end of the year, all the students are waiting for a break from the academic action. The student/faculty basketball game gave everyone that chance for fun and games.

Your mind was overloaded with numbers from math, stories from English, and vocabulary from a foreign language. You would soon be getting ready for finals, but you needed a break from all of the pressure. Where did that break reveal itself? In the student/faculty basketball game.

The annual event was a fun and enjoyable time for all the people involved, whether it was the students and faculty who were playing in the game or those who were spectators. It was, at some points, a grueling match that decided who the best team was, but it never lost its excitement for the audience.

Some students ended up guarding one of their own teachers, which might have seemed a bit awkward. However, everyone made the best of the situation and never lost the ability to try to show their best moves to their fellow students or faculty members.

Any student who wanted to play in the game put his or her name into a pool with many other students, and then names were drawn to see who actually got to perform on the court. Some students were disappointed at not being chosen to play, but others were rather relieved.

Each student who attended the game had to pay one dollar for a ticket. These funds went to the Key Club. Once the money was paid, that student was allowed to participate in an afternoon full of fun and games, as they watched their fellow students battle it out against their teachers.

—SPREAD BY TIFFANY STOCHEL



WWith possession of the ball, Vince Magee takes control of the court and tries to score some points for the students.



Teacher John Lync goes for a layup with three students waiting under the basket.



At the sidelines, Aaron Craft tries to block Superintendent Dr. Anthony Lux from throwing the ball in to teacher Tim James.



Teacher Artie Rogers focuses on the basket and shoots the ball in order to score some precious points for the faculty team.

The students and faculty take a break to cool down.



Aformer MHS basketball player, social studies teacher Zack Wells scores his points for the teachers now. The teachers beat the students in a game that was fun for everyone.

Academic Decathlon

Sponsors: Dee Edgcomb, Scott Staley

Members: Row 1: Mahogany Mead, Jane Lee, Hsin Chiang, Michelle Merkleis. Row 2: Ti-Yon Ward, Sarah Peters, Jennifer Yugo. Row 3: Aleksandar Goreski, Jacob Camp, Shea Street.



Art Club

Sponsor: Terry Pratt

Members: Row 1: Marygrace Hartline. Row 2: Jeff Styles, Tim Radford



BPA (Business Professionals of America)

Sponsor: Judy LeDuc

Members: Row 1: Melanie Page, Abbie Parduhn, Tiffany Siggers, Chrissine Teets. Row 2: Tanja Celeski, Edward Barksdale, Mandy Ferjo. Row 3: , Christina Upshaw. Not Pictured: Marygrace Hartline.



Building Trades - AM Class

Teacher: Bob Mackovyak

Members: Row 1: Jerry Duggins, Jermain White, JR Wimbish, Ricky Gracy. Row 2: Jason Rushing, Bill Cassoday, Erik Lesko. Row 3: Jeff A. Miller, Keith Hosler, Teacher Bob Mackovyak. Row 4: Mike Miljus, Roger Mauli, Matt Hall, Joshua Harris.



Building Trades - PM Class

Teacher: Bob Mackovyak

Members: Row 1: Jacob Arundsen, Dan Schroers, Jason Rushing, Ricky Garcia. Row 2: Jason Gray, Matt Huttle, Ryan Bobowsky. Row 3: Teacher Bob Mackovyak, Jason Collins. Row 4: Mark Milak.





Creative Writing Club

Sponsor: John Lambersie

Members: Row 1: Tracy Woynaroski, Cynthia Hunke, Megan Brown. Row 2: Lauren Pena, Jillian Marie Swisher, Melissa Stewart. Row 3: Kevin McMullin, Bret Sager, Sponsor John Lambersie, Rob Banks.



FCCLA (Family, Career and Community Leaders of America)

Sponsors: Carol Von Behren, Maggie Stallings

Members: Row 1: Demetria Massengill, David Mesarch, Lacie Hacker. Row 2: Ariesia Clanton, Candice Woods, Melissa Robinson, Lauren Hacker. Row 3: Emily Graun, Abby Hacker, Katie O'Brien.



FEA (Future Educator's of America)

Sponsor: Patty Robison

Members: Row 1: Melissa Ramirez, Patty (Dudak) Robison, Michelle Merkels.



French Club

Sponsor: Irene Spiro

Members: Row 1: Aleksander Goreski, Michelle Uremovich, La'toya McGee. Row 2: Nilaja Neely, Lindsey Krumrie, Sarah Liakos, Kristen Cribari, Julie Lesniak, Sponsor Irene Spiro. Row 3: Malakhiya Joiner, Karen Gresh, Damara Hamlin, Amber Ruisard, Theresa Nixon. Row 4: Sarah Papp, Heather Philippe, Shannan Peterson, Maegan McPhee, Nathan Harris, Darnell Cole Jr., Kristine Dabu.



Freshman Class Officers

Sponsor: Maggie Stallings

Assistant Sponsor: Wade Boise

Members: Row 1: Alan Balich. Not Pictured: Cora Gray, Kristina Damjanoska,

German Club

Sponsor: Edie Fisher

Members: Row 1: Staci Misialek, Sarah Kennedy, Jana Wagner. Row 2: Jamie Bainbridge, Lacie Hacker, Lauren Hacker. Row 3: Jacob Camp, Austin Floyd, Noyan Olcum, Anthony Domelle.



HERO (Home Economics Related Occupations)

Sponsor: Carol Von Behren

Members: Angela Austin, Chris Conn, Candice Gillespie, Kathy Gregory, Joe Jackson, Heather Karbowski, Jonathon Magallan, Vincent Magee, Konnie Pace, Tanika Parker, Camille Powell, Brenda Riley, Norma Roman, Lance Roy, Kathy Shawver, David Symanski, Jessica Todd, Robin Urbahns.



JETS and Rube Goldberg Team

Sponsor: Jim Vermillion

Members: Row 1: Ryan Transfiguracion, Julie Hoover, Jim Roames, Jana Wagner, Shea Street. Row 2: Derek Floyd, Sarah Peters, Tony Domelle, Jeff S. Miller. Row 3: Jacob Camp, Aleksandar Goreski, Tanya Obetkovski, Jamie Escobedo.



Junior Class Officers

Sponsor: Carrie Miller

Assistant Sponsor: Ryan Cartwright

Members: Row 1: Stacey Harrel, Erin Binkley, Amanda Diehl.



Key Club

Sponsor: Rob Bedwell

Members: Adriane Best, Donna Cermak, Anomi Fernando, Marina Goreski, Kelly Halcarz, Valerie Lipp, Missy Mihal, Amanda Pivovarik, Jennifer Prys, Kasey Samson, Steven Savka, Kim Smith, Tilney Smith, Elizabeth Sullivan, Jana Wagner.





National Honor Society - Juniors

Sponsor: Craig Stafford

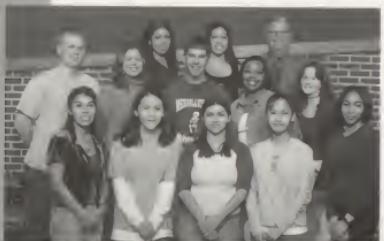
Members: Row 1: Jeannie Hughes, Mall Suetstrong, Marisa Valdez, Hsi Chiang, Amanda Gonzalez, Kristin Dabu, Janice Smith, Laura Horwitz, Renee Ortega, Amber Ruisard, Irene Menchaca, Kim Smith. Row 2: Lacie Hacker, Katherine Castro, Kirsten Kaiser, Meredith Lucas, Michelle Merkels, Jessica Gross, Amanda Diehl, Tiffany Sajdera, Christina Damjanski, Alison Byczko, Michael Piltzer, Cheryl Perkins. Row 3: Katie Dyer, Chantia Jones, Radhika Dave, Armalita Muro, Adriene Ruder, Stacey Harrell, Mila Muro, Kristin Koenig, Jason McGee, Paul Kostecki, Leslie Kleminski, Melissa Kish. Row 4: Nick Hidalgo, Mitchell Aubuchon, Mike Zelisko, Nick Graves, Juston Miller, Lonnie Randolph, Michael Mays, Tom Hancock, Bret Sager, Austin Floyd.



National Honor Society - Seniors

Sponsor: Craig Stafford

Members: Row 1: Aleksandar Goreski, Jeff S. Miller, Tanya Oberkofski, Ray Kellman. Row 2: Mahogany Mead, Malakhia Joyner, Marisa Malave, Lindsey Krumrie, Lindsey Stochel, Brandi Lewis, Sheney Roberts, Sandi Skratsky. Row 3: April Skura, Michele Ristovski, Loretta Petrovich, Ryan Transfigurayion, Jennifer Yugo, Michelle Uremovich, Tiffany Fizer. Row 4: Robert Waldron, Aaron Kesler, Tina Michael, Melissa Flutka, Sarah Peters, Sevia Vazanelus, Jamie Escobedo. Row 5: Jennifer Doneski, Julie Hoover, Amanda Valse, Melissa Johnston, Heather Gooch, James Roames, Sponsor Craig Stafford. Row 6: Ricky Bobos, Anthony Domelle, Derek Floyd, Jacob Camp, Jeremy Robertson, Aaron Craft.



Natural Helpers

Sponsor: Jerry Kasarda

Members: Row 1: Jennifer Ramirez, Jane Lee, Irene Menchaca, Chia Chiang, Malakhia Joyner. Row 2: Anthony Domelle, Jamie Bainbridge, Jeff S. Miller, Samaria Thompson, Nicole Bielak. Row 3: Armalita Muro, Camille Campos, Sponsor Jerry Kasarda.



Newspaper (The Mirror)

Adviser: Teresa Procter

Members: Row 1: Jenny Leonard, Stephanie Hall, Aubrey Brando, La'toya McGee. Row 2: Adam Pierce, Adviser Teresa Procter, Megan Brown, Ricky Holtz. Row 3: Ricky Tants, Ken Badylak, Mike Zelisko.



Peer Helpers

Sponsor: Dee Edgcomb

Members: Row 1: Jacinta Boger, Hara Halkias, Nicole Halkias, Jamie Bainbridge. Row 2: Jill Stasiak, Jessica Cooper, Cicely Harris, Bojana Kijajic.

Quill and Scroll

Sponsor: Jean Stanford

Members: Row 1: Lindsey Krumrie, Tiffany Stochel, Ken Badylak. Row 2: Lisa Fastero, Jacob Camp, Blythe Bertolo, Ricky Holtz. Row 3: Allison Neri, Michelle Uremovich, Amy Mulloy, Sponsor Jean Stanford.



Quiz Bowl Team

Sponsor: Mariam Taha

Members: Row 1: Ali Ahmed, Sarah Peters, Sponsor Mariam Taha. Row 2: Dathan Echols, Michelle Merkels.



SADD (Students Against Destructive Decisions)

Sponsor: Jennifer (Fuller) Johansson

Members: Row 1: Nicole Tomko, Jennifer Ramirez, Melissa Gray, Sharnee Johnson. Row 2: Rebecca McCarty, Camille Campos, Nicole McCarty, Erin McGee, Sponsor Jennifer (Fuller) Johansson. Row 3: Erika Jones, Kristine Dabu, Nicole Sweeney, Radhira Dave. Row 4: Adam Stetson, Jolan Dawson, Tracey Rice.



Senior Class Officers

Sponsor: Rob Bedwell

Assistant Sponsors: Maryetta Petras, John Lynk

Members: Row 1: Ray Keilman, Hector, Mendez, Derek Floyd.



Sophomore Class Officers

Sponsor: Jennifer (Fuller) Johansson

Assistant Sponsor: John Lambersie

Members: Row 1: Josh Everett, Elena Gonzalez, Chris Gabriel.





Spanish Club

Sponsor: MaryAnn Bertram

Members: Row 1: Jennifer Ramirez, Brandi Lewis, Michelle Lindahl, Sponsor Maryann Bertram. Row 2: Claudia Nava-McClain, Megan Hulbert, Erika Villarreal. Row 3: Danny Lopez, Mitchell Aubuchon.



Speech and Debate Team

Sponsor: MaryAnn Bertram

Members: Row 1:Mike Zelisko, Sponsor MaryAnn Bertram, Laurie Farver.



Spell Bowl Team

Sponsor: Evelyn Steiner

Members: Row 1:Hsin Chiang, Marisa Valdez, Chia Chiang, Damara Hamlin. Row 2: Adam Lewis, Laurie Farver, Jimmy Procter, Jane Lee.



Student Advisory Council

Sponsor: Evelyn Ennsmann

Members: Row 1: Courtney Parsons, Robert Perez. Row 2: Ray Keilman, Derek Floyd, Hector Mendez.



Student Government

Sponsor: Betty Lou Barsley-Marra

Members: Row 1: Jeffrey Roth, Courtney Parsons, Kristine Dabu. Row 2: Jeannie Hughes, Hara Halkias, Sharon Delacruz, Nicole Halkias, Jessica Cooper, Mandy Gonzalez. Row 3: Amanda Verdeyen, Jill Stasiak, Amanda Savka, Diana Hughes, Mary Kate Lucas, Sponsor Betty Lou Barsley-Marra. Row 4: Lara Bavis, Cora Gray, Jeff S. Miller, Mike Oxbig, Amanda Diehl, Row 5: Dave Rooda, Derek Floyd, Austin Floyd, Kirk Hammert, Erin Binkley, Dave Beale.

Student Government Executive Officers

Sponsor: Betty Lou Barsley-Marra

Members: Row 1: Courtney Parsons, Jeffrey Roth, Kristine Dabu.



Super Bowl Team

Sponsors: Craig Stafford and Evelyn Steiner

Members: Row 1: Sponsor Craig Stafford, Ali Ahmed, Chia Chiang, Marisa Valdez, Sponsor Evelyn Steiner. Row 2: Aleksandar Goreski, Sarah Peters, Hsin Chiang, Jane Lee. Row 3: Jennifer Yugo, Dathan Echols, Marissa Vawter.



Teen's for Christ

Sponsor: Doris Brown

Members: Row 1: Irene Menchaca, Jessica Zimmerman, Malahkia Joyner, Samaria Thompson, Rob Waldron. Row 2: Kevin Schulz, Mindi Nelson, Armalita Muro, Sponsor Doris Brown. Row 3: Jon Brown, Paul Best, Adam Pierce. Row 4: Jason Jemenko.



W.I.T.T. (We're in This Together) - Diversity Club

Sponsor: Viveca Carter

Members: Row 1: Kendall Martin, Jolan Dawson, Danah Frazier, Adam Pierce. Row 2: Viveca Carter, Schenell McClendon, India Diggins, Damara Hamlin, Antunette Torrence. Row 3: Claudia Nava-McClain, Jocelyn Blanchard, Arlinda Nava-McClain, JR Reed, Malahkia Joyner.



Yearbook (Merrillvue)

Adviser: Jean Stanford

Members: Row 1: Erica Kimble, Jillian Bazziel, LaCarra Bazziel, Mandy Komenda, Tawanda Hammonds. Row 2: Lisa Fastero, Krissi Mersot, Jaci Boger, Amanda Laviolette, Lindsey Krumrie. Row 3: Tiffany Stochel, Nicole Brown, Randi Guernsey, Michelle Uremovich, Alison Neri. Row 4: Mary Ann Fotis, Adviser Jean Stanford, Jacob Camp. Not Pictured: Cicely Harris, Amy Mulloy, Rosa Uribe.



Brandi Lewis welcomes trick or treaters to the National Honor Society booth with a smile. Various clubs had booths at the first SADD Halloween Fun Fair.



Matt Ginningham and Cheryl Majors anchored the daily announcements for their Broadcast class.



Amy Mulloy lights the candle of "Integrity" as part of the Quill and Scroll induction ceremony. The club is a journalism honorary.



History teacher Par Mulloy watches an academic team member react to an incorrect answer.

Members of WITT celebrate Dr. Martin Luther King's birthday by doing dramatic readings to show their respect.



Leaving an impression

MOVEMENT

VICTORY. Everyone wants it, but only some achieve it.

IT IS ACHIEVED in different ways, and it may take a long, difficult, sweat-bearing, back-breaking journey to get there, but the Pirates had all the right moves and left a definite impression.

FROM FOOTBALL to baseball and every sport in between, members exhibited their drive and determination.

THE FOOTBALL TEAM managed to remain undefeated the entire season until coming face to face with Portage. The Pirates lost after struggling through four overtimes.

AN IMPRESSION was made by the volleyball team, who had numerous victories and fought hard in order to compete at the semi-state competition.

THE BOY'S BASKETBALL team impressed everyone with its victorious season. The Pirates were considered one of the best teams in the area.

THE GIRL'S GOLF TEAM also turned heads when they qualified for their first Regional Championship in five years.

EACH TEAM MEMBER perfected his or her skills and made an impression on others.

THEY ALL displayed movement toward their goals to win, succeed, and achieve.

Jeffrey S. Miller is passing the ball in order to clear it out on defense. In this game, the Pirates won over Benton Central by a score of 8-0. According to Miller, "Soccer has taught me determination and the will to succeed."



Brenton MacDonald and Dave Beale help create a hole for Ryan Lawrence as Brian Yack hands him the ball. In this game, the Pirates upset rival Crown Point.



HOW HAS BEING INVOLVED IN SPORTS INFLUENCED YOUR LIFE?



"It has given me a better sense of dedication, leadership, and teamwork."

- JANICE MARLER, '00



"It has given me leadership, responsibility, determination, and has made me strive for my goals."

- AUBREY FAIRBAIRN, '01



Taking great strides toward the finish line, Malahkia Joyner pushes herself to run her best until the very last step.



Allison Derico jumps high in the air in order to rise above her opponents and find the best place and time to make her shot.



"It has made me more competitive and has shown me leadership responsibilities."

- DEREK FLOYD, '00



Brenton McDonald and Rick Sandilla double team their opponent as the team runs a sweep. Merrillville beat Crown Point 45-0.



The Pirates run a midline option as they push for a first down. Center Brenton Mac Donald snapped the ball to quarterback Brian Yack, who will hand off the ball to fullback Ryan Dulla.





Offensive guard Josh Mehay leads the Pirates on to the field for opening warm-ups. The team looks on as they prepare for the game ahead.

1 UNIT

Throughout the season
1999 Football players
JOIN AS ONE

Team competes in four
overtimes against Portage



Fullback
Ryan
Dulla
plows
through
the
Crown
Point
line to
cross
midfield.

Starting the 1999 football season, veteran players didn't quite know what to expect. However, they knew they had a lot of upcoming talent. "Even players who never played in a game came to practice with one hundred percent confidence," said Vince Magee, '00.

The Pirates were undefeated as they faced the Portage Indians. In a gut-wrenching game with neither team dominating, the Pirates lost in four overtimes with a final score of 42-35. Jeff Meding, '00, said, "I consider the Portage game the best game of the season. Four overtimes certainly made the game the best of the year."

After the disappointing loss, the Pirates never gave up; neither did the fans. "The coaches played a big role in keeping us on our feet after the loss to Portage," said Tony Donelle, '00.

After coming from behind to win the LaPorte game, the team was left with higher hopes of beating the Indians in the Sectional match-up. Josh Mehay, '00, added, "We have come together as a unit."

The Pirates were leading the Sectional game against Portage, with a score of 7-0. It wasn't until early in the fourth quarter that the Indians scored their first touchdown. Shortly after that, the Indians took the lead by scoring on a field goal. The final score of the game was 7-17.

The Pirates closed out this season with their heads held high, as they had an exciting and outstanding season.

Donelle continued, "Next year, if the freshman can play as a team, they could open some eyes."



"The hardest team we played against was Portage because they were the most competitive."

- Mike Cobb, '00

— SPREAD BY CICELY HARRIS, JACI BOGER, JENNY VILLARS AND JILL BAZZIEL

Nicole Brown chips from the rough to get a better shot on the green. Brown's drive shot ended just short of the green. Often, there is a slim chance that the first shot will land on the green.



Tracy Albee watches the flight of her ball as she follows through with her swing. It is often a struggle for the team to get the ball out of the sand trap.



5 SENIORS

After a span of five years the team qualifies for Regionals



Beth Matlock concentrates on an even putt as she aims for the hole. Putting is one of the most difficult and most crucial parts of a match.

B

Being led by new Coach Joe Starkey, the Lady Pirates had a fulfilling season, qualifying for their first Regional championship in five years, and placing seventh overall.

Looking back on the season, Starkey said, "After we established goals and expectations [to have a strong conference season and make it to Regionals] our season went well."

Starting the first week of August while most students were sleeping in, the girls got up early to be on the putting green at 6:45 AM. They teed off at 7 AM every day to play nine holes. They concentrated on improving the minor details of their game and trying to decrease their number of strokes.

The team, consisting of five seniors and two underclassmen on varsity, had been anticipating this year and had a good outlook on what they would accomplish. Tracy Albee, '00, commented that, "We expected the season to go pretty well since we've been waiting for this season for four years." The team finished with a record of 12-4.

The Pirates felt that their best match was against the Portage Indians. After a hard fought match, the girls came out with a win by a mere two strokes. Michelle Uremovich, '00, said, "I felt that the team played well as a whole. We didn't have just one or two girls who shot well."

The team members always supported each other and had great mental attitudes. Kirsten Kaiser, '01, said, "We were always there for each other and really bonded together as a team."

In addition, Uremovich and Rachel Moody, '02, were named to the All-Conference team.

Alaima Fasel fixes back her swing while keeping a close eye on the ball. Fasel was one of the key players for the 1999 golf season.



Q What are you looking forward to most about next year?

A "Going to Regionals."
— RACHEL MOODY, '02

— SPREAD BY AMANDA LAVIOLETTE, ALLISON NERI, LINDSEY KRUMRIE AND RANDI GUERNSEY

Lisa Newell turns her body as she hits the ball. She was defending her position as a middle front row hitter.



7 TITLES

Being best means winning Sectionals and gaining SEVEN REGIONAL BIRTHS

Hard work and determination lead to the volleyball team's 22-10 record



SISTER, SISTER

"We like playing together. We'd like to in college, too. We only fight over the little things. We're really close."

—LESLIE NEWELL, '00

"I think it's cool because we don't fight. We love playing together. It's really fun."

— LISA NEWELL, '02

The volleyball team started out the season great with victories over LaPorte, Michigan City, Portage, and Highland. They made many spectacular improvements this year. Head Coach Tania Price said, "The team has improved a great deal from last year." The team played with great consistency and strong intensity.

Irene Menchaca, '01, added, "Our team has improved on our ability to play as a team, which led to many of our tough victories."

The Pirates won their Sectional this year with wins over Lake Central, Lowell, and Crown Point. The team lost an upsetting and close game to Munster at Regionals.

Another triumph for the Pirates was winning a share of the Duneland Athletic Conference title for the first time since 1981. This title was shared with Michigan City, a big rival.

Lameah Delich, '00, commented on playing Michigan City during the season, "Michigan City thought they had already won the game before we even started. But, we ended up beating them." This victory was one of the most important for the team. The Lady Pirates spiked and struggled along the way, but made many accomplishments with help from Menchaca and Jenny Orze, '01.

All of the hard running, struggling, and motivation from Price definitely made a great impact on the team. Not only did they learn how to work as a team, but they also learned that success came from hard work. The team proved this with their many achievements this year.

The girls look forward to going even further next year.

— SPREAD BY MICHELLE UREMOVICH, LISA FASTERO, ERICA KIMBLE, AND LACARA BAZZIEL

Kelly Bowen focuses intensely on the ball as she prepares to serve. She was successful in this match against Portage.



Leslie Newell goes in for a roll spike. Lanneah Delich and Juli O'Brien went in for coverage in case the ball came back.



Elizabeth Balcerak dives into action to save an ace. She was passing the ball up after receiving a serve.

At the Regional meet, Derek Floyd keeps a steady pace. He had to manipulate his way through his opponents.



Jason McGee, Kevin Santelik, Marc Maple, Ray Keilmann, and Derek Floyd run neck and neck with Michigan City and La Porte at the Duneland Athletic Conference meet. The team came in sixth in the conference.



1 Excellence leaves team with ONE MAJOR GOAL GOAL

Boys' Cross Country team sports
a winning record at Semi-state



Marc Maple gasps for breath as he nears the end of the meet. Conditioning is an important part of this sport.

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T

The Boys' Cross Country team successfully qualified for Semi-State for the fourth consecutive year. They had a lot of strong runners, but not enough depth to qualify for the State meet.

The team placed third for the Highland Invitational, tied with LaPorte, and successfully finished through Sectionals, Regionals, and Semi-state. Robert Prentoski, '01, said, "Our best meet was the Regionals because many people doubted that we would make it that far."

All of these accomplishments were important because three great runners were replaced. With Prentoski and Jason Shelton, '01, running 17.07 and Derek Floyd, '00, running 17.5, success was highly in the hands of Coach Greg Pierson's athletes.

However, the team had a number of health problems during the key competition time of their season. Prentoski's back went out, and Shelton got the flu just two days before Semi-State. Because of the lack of numbers that came out for the team, there was nobody to step into their shoes when the team needed it most.

Pierson said that a "rash of injuries to top runners struck at an inopportune time." Despite all the success of the team, Pierson believed that they should have improved on consistency. He also said, "If you put in enough work and believe, there is no limit to what your team can do." His team proved that with more.

All of the hard and sweaty practices paid off for Pierson and his athletes. Though some doubted and underestimated the boys' cross country team, they exercised their ability to overcome the thoughts of others and display a team mentality. Overall, the boys' cross country team proved that success was on their side.



Q What are some of the fun things the team does?

A We Sarah wrapped the door to Coach Pierson's house so he couldn't get out."

— DEREK FLOYD, '00

Kevin Santelik works to keep up his pace as he pulls just inches in front of a La Porte runner. Santelik was one of six seniors on the team this year.

MHS
runners
pace
themselves.
Any
break in
their
stride
might
cause
them to
miss a
step on
that
important
kick to
the
finish
line.



3 MILES

**Girls capture 4th place
in Regional meet
KLEMINSKI BAGS 2ND**

Girls' Cross Country team meets
goals as it qualifies for Regionals

Not rain nor sleet nor snow ever stopped a cross country runner. Ranking fourth over all, the Girls' Cross Country team had a good year. The team was Sectional the runner-up and placed fourth in Regionals. Leslie Kleminski, '01, placed second in Regionals individually.

Many individual goals were accomplished also. Kasey Samson, '01, reached her goal of being in the top 12 by placing number 11. Aubrey Szany, '01, reached her goal of beating her previous score each time she ran.

The meets consisted of two and a half miles and a one to three mile warm-up and cool-down. Their home course was one of the slowest and hardest, but Samson managed to get her personal record there.

Some of the teams that seemed to be the hardest to compete against were Valparaiso, Chesterton, Michigan City, and LaPorte. The Duneland Athletic Conference Meet was one of the hardest in the state.

Assistant Coach Chris Fields tried to motivate the team by having them play games at practice. He also asked them to evaluate themselves and think about what they needed to do.

Cross country was one of the best sports to be involved in as far as the team was concerned. "Running is what you make of it. It's the only sport you can do anytime, anywhere, and it's better for you than any medicine or diet," commented Malahkia Joyner, '00.

"Running clears your mind and relaxes you," explained April Skura, '00.

Being on the cross country team involved more than running. Team members made new friends and memories. "I can't forget all the stuffed animals everybody would bring to the meets. We always had to kiss Jenny's bear before starting a race, put our angel wings on, and tap everybody on the shoulder for good luck," Joyner explained.

Senior
Co.
Captain,
April
Skura
gasps for
breath
clinging
on to her
motivation.
Skura
was
recipient
of the
team's
sportsman-
ship
award.

Test Your Knowledge

1. The average cross-country runner runs about ____ miles in a season.
a. 600 c. 500
b. 300 d. 400
2. In cross country the ____ score wins.
a. highest b. lowest
3. The top ____ runners are the only ones who count toward the team score.
a. 3 c. 20
b. 10 d. 5
4. Another name for a cross country runner is: _____.
a. True b. False
5. The distance for a cross country race is? _____
a. 5,000 meters
b. 400 meters
c. 26.2 miles
d. 5,000 meters

Answers: 1. d, 2. b, 3. a, 4. b, 5. a

— SPREAD BY TOWANDA HAMMONDS, NICOLE BROWN, AMY MULLOY, AND MARY ANN FOTIS



Leslie Kleminski takes a deep breath for that final stretch. She is the Junior co-captain and is also the team's most valuable runner.



Merrillyville's Cross Country competition starts off on the "right" foot. The girls come out of the shute together but the pack gradually spreads out over the course as each runner paces herself.



Forward Aaron Byczko prepares to cross the ball to the center to assist his teammates in scoring. Byczko was one of the leading scorers for the Pirates.



Kyle Vrotny comes out of the goal to make a save. Vrotny played goalie on junior varsity and later played the field on the varsity team.



11 WINS

Boys' Soccer has successful season

MOST WINS EVER

Team makes Sectional final round for third year in a row



Dan Kelaita battles a Yulpo rival for possession of the ball. The Pirates went into overtime and lost 2-1 in a penalty shoot-out.

Andy Pawlowski dodges the opponents to keep possession of the ball as he strives for the goal. Pawlowski has been noted for his constant hustle.



While most were having fun in the sun, the boys' soccer team was going through rigorous practices consisting of many fast-paced runs, sprints, and drills. It was hard work, especially in the scorching heat, but in the end it made an immense difference. With almost an injury-free season, the Pirates finished with a record of 11-3.

Many players noted that the conference standings could have gone either way and were not a good reflection on the team's ability. John Matusik, '00, mentioned, "Two of our losses (Chesterton and Portage) were by one goal, and we lost to Valparaiso in a shootout."

Leading scorers Ben Daniel, '01, Aaron Byczko, '01, and Vangel Nacovski, '03, led the offense, being backed up by a strong midfield and defense. Other than sweeper Darnell Cole, '01, a majority of the defenders were seniors. Hector Mendez, '00, one of the key defenders, said, "Defense really had to step it up because we lost our starting sweeper, and it forced everyone to improve."

Many of the players felt that this year, unlike in the past, they were actually united and played as a team. Tony Semowski, '01, felt that the most important improvement throughout the season was that, "We played as a team and stuck together no matter what. If a teammate went down, we would help him up."

One of the toughest teams for the Pirates's to conquer was the Valparaiso Vikings. With an ending score of 2-3 after an intense shoot-out, Peter Brasovan, '03, commented, "We didn't actually beat them, but by making it into overtime, it was a victory for us because we never came that close in the past."

The Pirate's made it to the Sectional championship game, by defeating Wheeler and Hobart. Having made it to this point in the past, the boys were ready for a win. Unfortunately, Boone Grove upset them after a hard fought match, ending with a score of 0-4.



QWhat was your best senior moment?

AWhen we defeated Lake Central because it was the first time we've ever beaten them.

— JOHN MATUSIK, '00

Margaret Szezerba runs to steal the ball before the Andrean defender can get it. The team strived to improve over last year.



2 TIMES

Team benefits from practicing
TWO TIMES A DAY FOR TWO WEEKS

Resulting in a 2-1 defeat of 14th ranked Valparaiso



From your experience last year in what ways has the girls' team improved?

Our overall physical abilities increased as a result of the hard work we put forth in conditioning during the pre-season.

— LINDSEY KRUMRIE, '00

It was a season of beginnings for the Lady Pirates as they had to adjust to a new coaching style. August 2, 1999 was the first time Coach Matt Walker actually saw his girls' soccer team, and his first reaction was, "they needed a lot of work."

A lot of work they did. In June, he had the girls practicing three days a week for three hours. The last two weeks of summer, while everyone else was out resting at the beach and hanging out with their friends, the Lady Pirates were practicing everyday, two times a day for a total of six and a half hours! Walker had the girls running two miles a practice, learning "new skill drills," and practicing their "German sprints." "The summer conditioning kept us in shape," said Stacy Kavos, '02.

The girls' soccer team was not as successful as the team had hoped. Nevertheless, it made positive improvements. Liz Greco commented, "It was not our best year."

Even though they had some disappointing losses, Kim Roberts, '00, said, "Coach Walker taught us a lot about soccer and the basic skills to make us look better."

The Lady Pirates agreed that the best game of the year was the victory over Valparaiso, the 14th ranked team, with a final score of 2-1. "We came together for the first time, and Valpo was such a good team, we didn't expect to win. It was truly a great victory," enthused Renee Ramos, '01.

"During the off season, we will be working on strengthening our offense," explained Walker. "With a lot of good attitudes and hard workers returning, the new coach should have much better results with next year's team."

— SPREAD BY CICELY HARRIS, JACI BOGER, JENNY VILLARS, AND JILL BAZZIEL





Pirates watch anxiously as goalie, Laura Sopko comes out of the goal for a save. Sopko averaged 9.5 saves a game.

With teammates behind, sweeper Liz Greco chases the ball down. After gaining possession Greco leads the Pirates to a goal.

Tony Stefko hits an overhead with perfect poise; he will be sure to beat the opponent.



Geremy Rinker follows through with his serve as Brandon McVade awaits the return. McVade and Rinker played number two doubles, and they were a key part of the team's success.



Doubles team
advances to Regionals
HIGH GOALS FOR NEW SEASON

7 PLAYERS

Summer practices paid
dividends in successful year

For some, summer was a time for rest and relaxation. For the boy's tennis team, summer was a time for work in order to gain an edge over opponents. Many of the players participated in tournaments and camps to prepare. The team displayed its desire to win when it came time to play Valparaiso, which had a nationally ranked player. The Pirates felt that it was one of their toughest challenges of the season. Despite a score of 0-5, the intensity remained high from start to finish as two of the matches went into three sets.

Tremendous improvement was made throughout the season. Coach Dave Zimmerman commented, "By Sectional time, the doubles players were playing with great chemistry and enthusiasm while the singles players improved their consistency and shot selection." The number one doubles team of Nick Corea (co-captain) and Ricky Bobos (co-captain) practiced vigorously in order to reach their goals of being named All District and All Conference.

Tony Stofko, the number three singles player proudly commented, "My overheads, volleys, and especially my backhand improved. We also improved mentally as a team." Robin Coffy, a French exchange student, focused on improving his consistency and his work achieved an All District award.

Everyone on the team had aspirations of winning Sectionals and sending their rival, Andrean, home with a loss. Three of the five Varsity matches went into three sets, and Erik Price and Tony Stofko played singles matches that came down to a third place finish in the Duneland Conference and ended their season with a 10-6 record. Although the team lost, Nick Corea and Ricky Bobos won their individual match and were able to advance to the Portage Regionals. Despite their strong efforts, Portage came out with the victory and ended the Pirates' season with a record of 19-3.



Erik Price
throws all his
body and
power into
returning the ball
to the
opponent's
court to
make
him run.



Q Who is the best tennis player and why?

A Nick Corea because he is consistent but weak. He has nice strokes.
- JOE FRANCIS, '00

A I would say Corea because he is the best at stroking balls, but me and Ricky are boys.
- ERIK PRICE, '01

Nick Corea knees to volley the ball into the opponent's court. Corea and Ricky Bobos held the number one doubles title for the DAC.

— SPREAD BY KRISI MERSOT, MANDY KOMENDA, BLYTHE BERTOLO, AND ROSA URIBE

1
Lonnie
Randolph
prepares
for a
shot
from the
10 foot
line
against
Hunting-
ton
North.
Randolph
was a
key
player
for the
Pirates.



7 Team adds seventh
title this year by
DEFEATING LEW WALLACE

7 TITLES

Boys win seventh Sectional
title in the past decade

The Merrillville Pirates boy's basketball team really worked hard in making this year a success. The Pirates knew going into the season they had a lot of talent. Throughout the whole season, the Pirates were ranked as one of the top five teams in the state. Coach Jim East insisted, "Our main goal was to be competitive in each game and strive to do our best. Our defense was probably the best we have had at Merrillville in my 20 years."

After losing two games to Chesterton and losing one of their key starters and vocal leaders Armond Baskin, the team was able to maintain an impressive status with a 20-3 winning record. The Pirates were Duneland Conference champions for the second year in a row. Although the team did not make it to state this year, they strived hard and ended the season with confidence. Point guard Lonnie Randolph said, "The toughest competition we had this year was ourselves. The only thing that stopped us from making it to state was us." The team felt their biggest accomplishment was beating Lew Wallace and winning the toughest Sectional championship around.

The Pirates beat Munster to claim their second consecutive Regional title. They then went to Lafayette to play in Semi-state. Unfortunately, they did not play to their ability and were defeated by Warsaw. Argenta said, "There is usually one bad game in a tournament for all teams. Ours came in the first game at Semi-state, and we couldn't overcome it." Although the Pirates did not advance to state, their performance throughout the year was outstanding.

2
Senior
Jake
Argenta
goes up
strong
for two
against
Holaburt.
Argenta
always
seemed
to find
his way
to the
basket
under
pressure.

Q What are you
looking forward
to most about
next year?

A To go all the
way and actu-
ally win state
and not come
up short-
handed."

TONY SEMOVSKI,
'01

— SPREAD BY RANDI GUERNSEY, NICOLE BROWN, LACARA BAZZIL,
AND JENNIFER VILLARS



Marvin Smith searches the court for an open teammate to pass the ball to. Smith's performance surprised many Pirate fans this year.



Teammates Lonnie Randolph, Adam Fedak, and Tony Senovski are study the action on the court. They are anxiously waiting to go into the game.

Janice
Marler
reaches
above
three
Crown
Point
defenders
to add
two
points to
the
Pirates'
score.



Keymo Pearson shows her agility and skills by maneuvering around a Crown Point defender.

KC



1 After a tough season the team has ONE MAJOR GOAL GOAL

Team keeps positive attitude
during rebuilding season

T

The Girls' Basketball grew tremendously this year. The team was mostly made up of young players who were ready and eager to defeat their opponents and go all the way. In spite of their 5-10 record, they still had a positive season.

After every game they played, they learned and improved from that. The girls practiced at least six times a week so they could improve their skills, and they got stronger with every game they played. The girls worked well together and possessed good communication skills on, as well as off, the court. Melissa Sanchez, '01, said, "We have to take it step by step and play every game like it's our last."

In order to be classified as a respectable team, the members had to have respect for themselves. They also believed that Coach Joe Poteet affected them positively in many ways. Keynn Pearson, '00, said, "He tells me that when I am on the court, I can not let my focus slide away and to concentrate only on the game."

Even though Pearson and Janice Marler, '00, will not be here next year, the team still has a lot of potential. Three of the top players were Christina Peete, '01; Kelly Pero, '02; and Maegan Mopage, '02. The goals for next year were already set. Poteet explained, "The goal next year is to go .500 or better and be competitive in each game. We also hope to improve defensively."

Although the season was not what the team had hoped for, they had futuristic goals and were looking to next year.

Megan McPhee jumps up for a close shot as her teammates wait for the rebound.



Kelly Pero quickly makes a pass to release the pressure of three defenders.



Q What does a team need to be successful?

A Communication and teamwork. Everyone has to be on the same page and have the same goals."

— JULIE SEAGRAVES, '01

— SPREAD BY MICHELLE UREMOVICH, LISA FASTERO, ERICA KIMBLE, AND LACARA BAZIEL



Pcurr Adams takes a quick moment to come up for a breath of air during the butterfly. Much stamina and concentration are needed for this event.



Ryan Midkiff is caught in action while swimming the freestyle. The only time that Midkiff has a chance to take a breath is when he turns his head in between powerful strokes.



Five swimmers
compete individually
AT SECTIONALS

5 GUYS

Team achieves goals and
places fifth at Sectionals

The boys swimming and diving teams began practices at the end of November and continued through until the end of February. Many students did not realize the hard work and dedication the MHS swim team put forth. The boys had six to eight practices a week ranging from an hour and a half to two and a half hours long. The team even had practices in the early morning before school. This was difficult at first, but the boys learned to adjust quickly. With many events, including 200 medley relay, 200 free, 100 back, 100 breast, and many more, the team had lots to train and practice for. Ken Baidylak said that his favorite event was the "500 free because it is the longest event, and it takes a lot of thinking to do well."

Before the season started the boys liked to set goals for themselves and as a team. Nathan Pritchard set a goal to place in the top three at Sectionals. He was a third place finalist at Sectionals in the 100 fly, and fourth in the 200 IM, for the second year in a row. This was an excellent accomplishment for him.

Tim Randolph also had a good season receiving conference co-MVP. The team itself had a record of 3-11 and tied for fifth at Sectionals with only five people competing in individual events. They placed 27th in the State championship with only one swimmer scoring points. Finally, the diving team also completed their season after much practice and hard work. Peter Sierra represented Merrillville at the State Meet and finished 18th overall.

There were several changes in the team from last year to this year. Nathan Pritchard said, "We had a lot more good swimmers. All of the newcomers last year swam terrific this year." The team as a whole hoped to accomplish more for next year. With commitment and the team focusing on their goals, the season already looks promising.

— SPREAD BY AMANDA LAVIOLETTE, ALLISON NERI, LINDSEY KRUMRIE
AND RANDI GUERNSEY



Peter Sierra shows his diving technique in a meet against Lake Central. Perfect poise and position are essential.



Q: How did the State Meet affect the swimmers?

A: This was a good learning experience for him...and he has two more years to improve down here."

— COACH
BRYON
ANGERMAN
ABOUT TIM
RANDOLPH, '02

With long and powerful strokes, Jose Benavente glides to the finish of his race after competing in the backstroke event.



Marisa Malave concentrates on maintaining her balance in order to prepare for her back approach dive. She finished 7th in the State Meet.



"My relationship with the team is very open. I can converse with them from a sports perspective as well as personal and academics views."

-Coach Bryon Angerman

She girls' swim team completed their 2000 season with a record of 9-6. The Lady swimmers and divers ended their season with a strong third place finish at the Lake Central Sectional. Lisa Ross, '02, and diver Marisa Malave, '00, were Sectional champs in their respective events.

Malave won the diving competition, breaking the Sectional record and Merrillville's team record. Cassandra Pavlovich, '01, finished second in diving and qualified for Regionals along with Malave.

Ross defended her Sectional title in the 500 yard freestyle and finished second in the 200 individual medley, good enough for a call back to the State Meet.

Also, the team of Danielle Molchan, '02; Claire Sivka, '00; Ross, and Maryanne Green, '00; finished second in the 200 medley relay, which was under the state standard and qualified them for state. The team of Jennifer Okichich, '01; Molchan; Green; and Ross finished second in the 200 freestyle relay and received a call back to state.

Although this year's season was a success, there were several obstacles that the team encountered. For instance, during the Sectional and dual meets, they failed to gain depth; consequently, Crown Point and Lake Central defeated them. However, they overcame those two obstacles and achieved a victory over both teams at the State Meet. Their ability to achieve such a victory was primarily because the seniors displayed good leadership to the underclass swimmers. These leadership qualities also guided the underclassmen into gaining a sense of team unity, one of the team's weaknesses.

Coach Bryon Angerman explained that the lack of depth was what most often hurt the team when it came to competition. But, as far as building a better program, he added, "Over the next few years, I expect the team to increase in numbers as well as to attend year round training."

Strong 3rd place finish at Sectionals LEAVES TEAM WITH

2 CHAMPS

Lack of depth doesn't keep girls from beating rivals at State Meet

As Becky Stevens glides through the water, she quickly takes a huge breath. While the gasp for air is essential, it must be placed at exactly the right moment.

— SPREAD BY CICELY HARRIS, JACINTA BOGER, JENNIFER VILLARS, JILLIAN BAZIEL, AND KENNETH BADYLAK



With straight arms and tight muscles, Dawn Moilhan begins a forward dive. A major focus for a diver is her position and appearance in the air.

Cassandra Pavlovich rises to the water's surface in order to get her fill of air while doing the front crawl.

Senior Lisa Fastero pauses to prepare herself before her series. Coach Bill Roberts looks on as she gets ready.



8 YEARS

2000 team earns
first state trip in
EIGHTYEARS

Pirates smash state record at meet and gain respect



Senior gymnasts Sherley Roberts, Kimberley Roberts, Lisa Fastero, and Katie Smith remember their favorite memories.

Diane Roberts, head gymnastics coach, knew the year 2000 would be a year that would bring Merrillville Gymnastics back into the spotlight and out of its eight year stateless appearance. This was the year the Pirates set out to make history, break records, and become champions.

The team was full of depth this year thanks to a talented bunch of freshmen and nine strong returning lettermen. In the dual season, the Pirates broke many records which were last set in 1992. Two of these records included the team vault and beam records. The most prestigious record broken this year was the STATE team record. The record was first set in 1992 by the Pirates, but broken by Valparaiso early in this season. Merrillville then came back and re-established their title in a dual conference victory over Chesterton.

The gymnastics team finished the season as Co-Conference champs (7-1), and beat number one ranked Valparaiso to become this year's 2000 Regional champs. The Pirates ended their season, as well as the eight year streak, by finishing third as a team at the State Meet.

The team was lead by Lisa Fastero, '00, who ended her gymnastics career with three school records (floor, vault, and All-around), the state All-Around record, four MVP's and also becoming this year's 2000 Conference, Sectional, and Regional All-Around Champion. Katie Dyer, '01, also helped lead the way for the Pirates and broke the school balance beam record. Kara Lix, '03, earned herself a second place finish on the balance beam in her first state meet of her high school career.

The 2000 team opened the eyes of many and was the beginning of many victories to come in this new millennium. The future is bright for these Pirate gymnasts.

Megan Skoruppa maintains her balance in a leg extension while on the beam. Skoruppa was this year's mental attitude award winner.





Brittany Williams shows her flexibility on a four-inch wide balance beam. Williams competed on the beam at the state meet.



Karie Tanis poses in a split position on the balance beam. Tanis is part of the team record broken on beam this year.



Jake Rodriguez overpowers his opponent and goes for the win. Rodriguez qualified for State this year and placed third.



Josh Mehay works to turn his opponent to his back for the pin. Mehay qualified for the State Meet this season through long hours of hard work and dedication.



6 TEAM ACQUIRES TOUGHNESS MINUTES

Wrestlers win first team regional

Rodriguez and Mehay qualify for State Meet; Rodriguez takes third



Mike Mays circles around watching for the chance to shoot for a takedown. Mays improved his personal record to 28-8 with 20 pins this year.

Pirate wrestlers celebrate after winning the first team Regional championship ever in the history of the school.



Any idea how long six minutes lasts? In wrestling, three 120 second periods turned into the longest, gut-wrenching muscle workouts imaginable. Few people understood the total dedication it took to wrestle. Josh Mehay, '00, said, "It takes a special type of person to be a wrestler. The mental toughness required to make it through a season is unparalleled by any sport."

The 1999-2000 Pirate Wrestling team did more than just "make it through" this season. As a team, the Bucs won Sectional and Regional championships and qualified for Semi-State before falling to Portage who went on to become State champions. Individually, Merrillville semi seniors Jacob Rodriguez and Josh Mehay to the State meet where Rodriguez placed third.

The depth of this team was a key factor in its success. Many of the guys improved greatly from last year under Head Coach Randy Qualtza. Varsity member Mike Mays, '01, was very pleased with the progress he made. He "went from 7-13 to 28-8 with 20 pins" this year. Also, many underclassmen stepped up from a stacked JV squad. Freshmen Brad Woodward, Jeff Abrego, and Ricardo Moreno all accepted the varsity challenge.

Though the season was over, don't be surprised to see many Pirate wrestlers already in the weight room. It will take all summer to prepare for a season of 6-minute workouts.



QWhat was your favorite memory about the season?

A: The intense bus rides with Bob Kleinaman.

—Ryan Dulla, '00

— SPREAD BY CICELY HARRIS, JACINTA BOGER, MICHELLE UREMOVICH AND JILLIAN BAZZIEL

Casidy Pruitt concentrates as she directs the ball over the net. Only a freshman, Pruitt had an awesome season.



The Girls' Tennis team draws near for a team huddle before a match to encourage each other and talk about strategy. They had an undefeated conference and Sectional season, and the whole team made All-District.



3 TITLES

Team makes it to the final round of Semi-State for second year

W

Wow was right! The girls tennis team finished at Semi-State with a record of 20-1. This tough loss came from St. Joe with a score of 23 in the second round of Semi-State. The team had their hearts set on making the final four at State, but they finished just two games short of that miracle.

The girls' never ending efforts and unstoppable attitudes paid off, making up for the loss of valued seniors from last year's Regional championship team.

Amanda Valse was undefeated as the number 1 singles player until she injured her wrist and was unable to finish the season. JV player Jennifer Ramirez and the rest of the team stepped up with flying colors to make up for the loss.

Freshman-sensation Cassidy Pruitt also made an outstanding contribution being undefeated at number 2 singles. She had many outstanding accomplishments, including not dropping a single game through an entire tournament while filling the shoes of Valse in the first singles spot. At Regionals, which was a critical point in the Bucs season, she pulled through even though she had a temperature of 101 degrees to win the title.

Senior Blythe Bertolo made All-Conference, along with Amanda Valse and Cassidy Pruitt. She also went undefeated and beat both opponents in Semi-State.

Many of the underclassmen looked up to the seniors as role models. They were all great students, good athletes, had great attitudes, and were consistently working to improve their game.

— SPREAD BY LINDSEY KRUMRIE, KRISI MERSOT, NICOLE BROWN,
AND ERICA KIMBLE

Senior
Blythe
Bertolo
concen-
trates on
her
timing as
she
serves
the ball.



Jessica Zimmerman powerfully returns a volley to her opponents during a doubles match.



Q How did you view your team as a whole this year?

A We act as a close-knit family. We pick each other up constantly and encourage each other to do our best."

— AMANDA DIEHL, '01

Ken Badylak tees off on a par four hole. He watches his drive to see how near the green it lands.



Test Your Knowledge

1. A golfer plays ____ holes in one round.
 - a. 6
 - b. 9
 - c. 18
 - d. 16
2. In golf the ____ score wins.
 - a. highest
 - b. lowest
3. Shooting one stroke under par is called a ____.
 - a. bogie
 - b. turkey
 - c. eagle
 - d. birdie
4. A player's handicap is ____ his score?
 - a. added to
 - b. subtracted from
5. Hitting the ball into the hole on the green is called?
 - a. driving
 - b. chipping
 - c. putting
 - d. teeing off

Answers: 1. c, 18, 2. b, lowest
3. d, bogie, 4. a, putting
5. c, driving and 5. c, putting

ANSWER: 1. c, 18, 2. b, lowest
3. d, bogie, 4. a, putting
5. c, driving and 5. c, putting

4 PLAYERS

Golf team strives to improve on last year

FALLS 9 STROKES SHORT

Lowell sneaks by to knock Pirates out of a Regional berth

T

The team had hoped to improve on the season before by making it out of Regionals, but it wasn't to be. The previous team had qualified for Regionals for the first time since 1990. This team planned to do even better.

Working toward this goal, the team spent hours practicing. The off season was measured in holes played and buckets of balls hit at the driving range as they tried to cut strokes off of their scores.

During the season, Coach Joe Starkey worked with each player after each match discussing his performance and offering suggestions on drills and ways to improve the player's game.

However, things didn't go as planned when the team arrived at White Hawk County Club in Crown Point for Sectionals. The start was delayed while the foursomes were reorganized because three Gary schools didn't even put in an appearance. Competition this year was at an extremely high level with Andrean going on to compete at State.

When the dust cleared and the scores were totaled, Andrean had surprised the DAC champion Crown Point team, and Lowell had scored 328 to Merrillville's 337 qualifying for the third and final berth in the LaPorte Regional. The only Pirate to advance was Zac Cook, '00, who qualified individually.

Senior Zac Cook plays for a birdie. He qualified for Regionals as an individual player.

— SPREAD BY NICOLE BROWN, MARYANN FOTIS, TOWANDA HAMMONDS, ROSA URIBE



A golfer squints into the sun to see where his tee shot landed hoping to have avoided the sand trap.



Zac Cook checks the angle as he lines up his last putt at the team's home course, Broadmoor. He was one of the top players for the team this year.

Joe Venegas grips the pole as he tries to make it over the bar in pole vault.



Sprinters get ready for the starting gun as they take their place in the blocks. Getting a good jump out of the blocks can win or lose a race.



5 ADVANCE

Veterans use their strength to win TRYING FOR THEIR GOAL

Boys win their Sectional and place third at Regionals



Montrell Person sprints toward the finish. Person took first in hurdles at the State Meet.

Hector Mendez shows his exhaustion as he hands off the baton to teammate Rob Prentoski who will run the next leg of the relay.

We don't have a lot of depth, but what we do have is spunk," said Coach Jim Johnston as he looked ahead to the track season. Johnston's goal was to get to state and do well there.

Although the team itself did not advance, five team members advanced to the State Meet as individuals. Hurdler Montrell Person, '00, placed first at state. Pole vaulter Andy Tancos, '00; high jumper Ben Daniel, '01; discus hurler Dan Niksch, '01; and long jumper and sprinter Demetrius Clark, '00, all competed at the State Meet.

After a disappointing showing in the Duneland Conference Meet because of missing runners, the team won its Sectional but placed third in Regionals. It lost only two meets this season improving its record from the previous year. Chris Gough, '02, explained, "We had a better effort."

Rob Prentoski, '01, said that Portage was the most difficult team to beat "because they are so deep in runners." He added that the most difficult loss was to Franklin Central, a highly ranked team.

On the other hand, Nick Fisher, '02, thought Lake Central was the most difficult team to beat, but "Crown Point usually gives us a run at Sectionals."

Aaron Byzko, '02, thought the Highland Relays were the team's best meet. He explained, "We were missing key guys but still managed to win the meet."

While some team members looked to the coaches for motivation, Prentoski said he was motivated by "Ben Daniel, because he works so hard in practice." Daniel and Niksch will form the nucleus around which Johnston will build next year's team.



Q What is the most notable thing you remember about the past season?

A Montrell, Andy, Ben, Dan, and Debo going to State. We never had that many people go to State."

- CHRIS GOUGH, '01

Elizabeth Sullivan uses her strength to throw the shotput as far as she can. Shotput is an event which requires great strength and coordination.



15 SEASONS

Atria completes his
15th season with
THE GIRLS' TRACK TEAM

Improved girls' team
places 10th in the state

G

Girls track had an amazing year! Angela Austin had a breakthrough senior season by winning fifth in state in the 400 meter dash with a time of 58.1 seconds, which broke Mingo Valley High School's record of 58.2 seconds. When asked what intrigued her about girls' track, Austin replied, "It gives me the feeling that I am on top of the world, and that I'm number one."

Krystle Jones, '01, enjoyed the competition track had to offer as well as the pure thrill of running. "I enjoy the competition because you never know what to expect, and you just do your best. I enjoy running because it keeps you in shape." Jones and Jacky VanDusseldorp, '00, were undefeated in the sprints. Jacky Vandusseldorp was fourth in the 100 and third in the 200.

Also, Alyssia Fortney and Gloria Paey were major freshman contributors. Fortney said, "At first I felt like it was a chance of a lifetime because I'm just a little freshman." She added that she other freshmen at the State Meet. Karie Dyer, '01, placed eighth at state in the 100 meter hurdles and fifth in the 300 hurdles last season. Dyer was also involved in gymnastics. Coach Joe Atria said, "Track is a different kind of conditioning than gymnastics. Nothing there lasts 300 meters."

The team gave an outstanding performance at Sectionals, Regionals, and state meets. The Pirates were strong competitors and may have been the best team yet. Overall, the girls track team won tenth place in the state out of 356 other teams.

Coach Atria commented, "We're very team-oriented. It's always been a focus for us. Track is a funny thing. It's normally considered an individual sport, but when you wear the purple for us, it becomes a team sport."

— SPREAD BY MARYANN FOTIS AND TIFFANY STOCHEL

Kortina Gates gives it her all starting from the blocks to make it first to the finish line.



Katie Dyer shows her fatigue after running a difficult race. She placed eighth at state in the 100 meter hurdles.



Jessica Gray attempts an excruciating jump. She achieved her goal by defeating her own challenges.



Jaclyn Visune prepares to take a swift yet powerful swing at an oncoming ball.



Captain Natalie Martin gets low in the dirt in order to catch the ball. Martin set the school's single-season hitting record last spring with 45 hits.



10 YEARS

Senior players together since being
EIGHT YEARS OLD

Team helps Coach Bergeson
get his 300th win



For captain Randi Guernsey grips the ball on the pitcher's mound and gets ready to hurl it toward the batter.

WMany times on a sport team, there was a special group that seemed to have always been together, for better or for worse. Eventually, though, the team broke up and go its separate ways.

This year's seniors had been playing softball together since they were eight. It was not very often that a team had a roster stacked with seniors, either. All games had at least six seniors playing, and some games started all eight. This squad was led by two '99 All-Conference players in Randi Guernsey and Natalie Martin, both '00.

The infield also had a few new faces in it. Denice Miranda, '00, moved from outfield to third base, while Meredith Lucas, '01, and Desiree McDaniel, '03, split time at second base. McDaniel also spent some time as catcher.

After losing a freshman outfielder, Coach Bob Bergeson moved two-year starting third baseman, Julie Hoover, '00, to center field. Jamie Bainbridge, '00, stepped in to play right field everyday after primarily coming off the bench last season. The team also benefitted from several powerful batters.

The Pirates defeated Chesterton and completed the first round of conference play with a record of 33. The team ended their season by losing in the first round of Sectionals to Lake Central. Carole Holtz, '00, thought that was the team's best game though, because "we played hard as a team and never gave up."

The Pirates were able to come together through tragedy and hard times. They were also part of a milestone by getting Bergeson's 300th win. Holtz, said, "That was awesome because he's been into softball for so long, and we all know how much he loves the game. It was great to be a part of such an accomplishment."



QWhat is the most notable moment during post-season play?

AIt was really cool to come together at the very last game. We really played our best and never gave up."

- CAROLE HOLTZ, '00



Julie Hoover returns with a smile to her excited teammates, who welcome her with high fives all around.

Jon Byerly takes a timeout to discuss strategy with pitcher Dave Beale. Beale shared the mound with captain Ryan Dulla.



5 LOST

Pirates picked up the pace after a little more practice

RReplacing five varsity starters seemed like a tough task, but the players on this year's baseball team were ready to step up to the challenge. "The adjustment made the beginning of the season very rough," according to Ryan Dulla '00. However, after a little more practice and experience, the guys seemed to find the missing pieces and picked up the pace.

With virtually no injuries, the team used every weapon they had, and it started to show midway through the season. LaPorte, one of the best teams in the state, was probably the team's toughest competition of the regular season. Nick Wardrip '00, said, "We were winning and playing the best we had all year until they hit a line drive off of Ryan Dulla's chest." Although the victory went to LaPorte, the Pirates had a lot to be proud of. They gave the Slicers a surprise and made it difficult for them to win, ending with a score of +2.

Often underestimated, the Pirates rose to every challenge they were confronted with and never seemed to give in. Sam Nuzzo '00, described his teammates as "relentless." Their desire and persistence continued to take them to new levels throughout the season. With a strong infield defense to begin with, the guys worked to improve their batting skills, which soon became another skill to watch out for. The anticipation before the first game of Sectionals, which was predicted to be the toughest of the tournament, motivated the players to give it their all in preparing for post-season play.

Unfortunately, the Pirates ended their season in the first game of Sectionals to Crown Point. However, they worked their best during the entire season and gave each game their all. They showed that a team doesn't have to win every game to be considered a winner.

QIn your opinion, who was the player who influenced you the most?

AYou can always count on them (Steve Gill and Sam Nuzzo) to be on base for you. They talk a lot, and that gets you hyped up."

- JEFF O'KEEFE, '00

Coach Fenton Macke rounds up his team to praise their performance and give them tips on how to maintain control of the game.

— SPREAD BY BLYTHE BERTOLO AND TIFFANY STOCHEL



With a face of focused concentration, Nick Wandrup takes his place at the batter's box and prepares to swing at the oncoming pitch.

Ryan Dulla knows that anticipation and preparation are the keys to being a successful first baseman or pitcher.

Ranch
Pigg
moves to
the
music
during
the
Senior
routine.
Pigg has
been in
Poms for
six
years.



Ginger Francis leads a group in time across the floor. While the Poms had some eye-catching costumes, they had many complex and difficult moves to go with them.



6 DAYS

Practice makes perfect working SIX DAYS A WEEK

Dance team places first at
Regionals and second at State



Krissi Mersot smiles as she scans the crowd. Energy was an essential element to a great performance.

When someone said the word "pom-pom," many people thought of girls in flashy outfits "shaking their butts," according to Tamara Bowen, '02. The words hard work, dedication and effort rarely came to mind for someone who was never involved. But ask a member of the Merrillville Dance Team, and she would whole-heartedly endorse all of the above, if not more.

Few people could fathom how difficult the routines and tricks were and how time consuming Poms was. The girls started practicing immediately after try-outs were over. During the summer, they practiced two to three days per week and went to camp with the band to prepare for football season.

Practice for competition routines started at the beginning of basketball season. Once this season started, the Dance Team worked non-stop until late February. Krissi Mersot, '00, commented on all the effort the team put in. "We have practice every day till 6 p.m." she said. "After that, we have the games to go to, and during competition season we had practice on Saturday mornings, too. Plus, our competitions were usually on Saturday during the day."

Their hard work and effort paid off. The girls had one of the best seasons ever. At Regionals, the team placed first in dance. Their success continued at State, where they received second in dance and fourth in poms. It was the first time the team got that far for as long as the girls on the team remember. The happiness the Poms felt gave Jenny Villars, '00, a feeling of hard-earned satisfaction. "We went into competition thinking we weren't going to get very far," she said, "but we proved ourselves wrong."



Q What was an unknown fact about being a Pom?

A Poms can stress you out to the point where you want to quit, but just at that moment, you walk on the court, perform for hundreds of people, and realize that it's all worth while."

—BRIANNE MCGEE, '01

Lindsey Mysliewic holds a Scorpion. This very difficult move required balance, flexibility, and lots of practice.

— SPREAD BY MICHELLE UREMOVICH, LISA FASTERO, ERICA KIMBLE, AND LACARA BAZZIEL

Senior cheerleader Sara Stanzione holds her stance as she cheers her Pirate team on to a victory.



Meredith Lucas holds her body stiff as she is flipped through the air. The cheerleaders began each game with these ritual flips during the starting line-up.



3 AWARDS

Cheerleaders show their talent by WINNING THIRD PLACE

Best Chant, Stunt Smart, and Spirit Stick are earned at camp



Having a co-ed squad made it easier for the cheerleaders to show off their stunt skills. Here the squad performs an impressive mount.

The atmosphere at a football or basketball game could be very intense and exciting. What was better to enhance that excitement than the Merrillville cheerleaders? Not only were the cheerleaders there to show support for the teams, but they got the crowd motivated to show their spirit also.

Cheerleading required lots of hard work and dedication. Getting ready for the frequent games throughout the year took many long hours of practice. During the summer the team had practice four days a week usually from 6-8 a.m. Also, this summer the MHS cheerleaders attended a four day camp at Purdue Lafayette. There they received many awards including Best Chant, Stunt Smart, and the Spirit stick. They were also rewarded with a bid to Nationals. Janice Garcia, '00, commented that they learned many new complicated stunts and transitions this year at camp. This certainly showed at the games. Fans enjoyed themselves during time-outs and half-times by watching girls fly in basket-tosses or seeing them extended into the air in liberties.

This year and for the last few years stunting grew more and more popular. More and more guys decided to join cheerleading. Bruce Blue, '01, who just began cheerleading last year, said to guys who were interested in cheerleading, "Don't worry about what your friends say. It's cool, and it's worth it."

Besides practicing for their weekly games the squad also had to prepare for their competition which was held in Highland.

Finally, this year the squad's coach, Lori Govert, had a baby. Having a coach with a newborn baby was somewhat difficult at times, but Mrs. Govert put in as much time as she possibly could, showing her dedication to the squad. The squad managed to pull together and have another successful season.

Chery Hoagland
points to the fans from an extension during a time-out performance during basketball season.



QWhy did you start cheerleading, and what has kept you involved?

AAs was the mascot, and they asked me to be a cheerleader. I went to a practice and fell in love with it. I stayed involved because of the friends I made, and I was amazed by the stunts we could do."

—RYAN PETRY, '00

— SPREAD BY JILLIAN BAZZIEL, JAKE CAMP, AMANDA LAVIOLETTE, AND KRISI MERSOT

Athletic Trainers

Trainer: Sherm Izsak

Assistant Trainers: Sean Hudson, Kevin Elo

Members: Row 1: Kelly Buckner, Andrea Franz, Schenell McClendon, Morgan Marovich, India Diggins. Row 2: Dawn Molchan, Danielle Molchan, Vanessa Sonaty, Ryan Romeo, Jennifer Okichich.



Freshman Cheerleaders

Coach: Samantha Sherwood

Members: Row 1: Diana Hughes, Deniel Dean, Ashley Sak. Row 2: Jill Porter, Cora Gray, Theresa Schubert, Julie Trimble, Fontaine Stegall.



Junior Varsity Cheerleaders

Coach: Erica Walla

Members: Junior Varsity (White) Cheerleaders - Row 1: Brittany Cobb, Erin Morgan, Sammy Grzesik, Lara Dabis, Tina Coburn, Katie Floyd. Row 2: Jennifer Sierra, Christie Kamanoff, Rachel Hammond, Melissa Vargas, Theresa Sciacchetta, Kelly Polster.



Varsity Cheerleaders

Coach: Lori Govert

Members: Varsity (Purple) Cheerleaders - Row 1: Sara Stanzione, Jacky Van Dusseldorp, Katie Dyer, Ashley Suggs, Cheryl Hoagland. Row 2: Danny, Meredith Lucas, Nicole Sweeney, Janice Garcia, Tina Michael, Jessica Gray, Ryan Petry.



Boy's Cross Country

Coach: Greg Pierson

Members: Row 1: Kevin Santelik, Jake Minnick, Jason Mc Gee, Jason Shelton, Shane Clark. Row 2: Coach Greg Pierson, Nicholas Porzuczek, Rob Prentoski, Mark Maple, Raymond Keilmann, Austin Floyd, Derek Floyd, Robert Hemphill, Ryan Transfiguracion.





Girl's Cross Country

Coach: Phil Hey

Assistant Coach: Chris Fields

Members: Row 1: Aubrey Szany, Kortina Gates, Aimee Ruder, Haatal Dave, Pauline Petruich, Kasey Samson, Nilaja Neely. Row 2: Coach Phil Hey, Jennifer Arambula, Seanne Collins, Lunetta Ellison, Malahkia Joyner, Armalita Muro, Colleen Harstad, Leslie Klemekins, Natalie Lindsey, Krystle Jones, April Skura, Amy Pivovarnick, Jennifer Ramirez, Coach Chris Fields.



Freshman Football

Coach: Zak Wells

Assistant Coaches: Wade Boise, Jeff Clinkenbeard

Members: Row 1: Ryan Nava, Chris Vargas, Danus Smith, Chris Adams, Gary Marek, Jason Gibson, Jeff Abrego, Vincent Torres. Row 2: Matt Smith, Kevin Mestrovich, 7' Trevor, Clint Wimmer, Clark Montgomery, Will McGhee, Paul Kurczynski, James Bishop. Row 3: Brad Woodward, Luke Francis, Demetrius Henley, Eric Morris, Jeff Champion, Derek Roldan, Michael Simpson, Billy McBride, James Harris, Aaron Powley. Row 4: Jacob Appleton, Leon Brown Jr., Adam Tegtmann, Brian Jostes, Kevin Dwyer, Joe Flora, Chris Ross, Sylvester Brooks, Michael Anderson.



Varsity and Junior Varsity Football

Coach: Jeff Yelton

Assistant Coaches: Joe Atria, Mike Krutz, John Lynk, Ryan Pitcock, Art Rogers, Larry Zembala



Girl's Golf

Coach: Joe Starkey

Members: Row 1: Laura Jostes, Tracy Albee, Nicole Brown, Amy Petry. Row 2: Rachel Moody, Kirsten Kaiser, Beth Matlock, Alaina Fasel, Michelle Uremovich, Crystal Croson, Coach Joe Starkey.



Junior Varsity Boy's Soccer

Coach: Brian Past

Assistant Coach: Pete Nacovski

Members: Row 1: Brian Nienhaus, Eric Nolan, Mike Berta, Peter Sierra, Jon Gutierrez, Luke Nienhaus. Row 2: Manager Robe Chidress, Nick Milesco, Ciro Rarnos, Kwanas Asabere, Brian Zdych, Matt Krysa, Zac Pearman, Peter Dorsulescu, Matt Aloia. Row 3: Coach Brian Past, Mike Lork, Nokira Driljaca, Igo Ristevski, Joe Junisa, Biffa Asabere, Brandon Beller, John Padberg, Ray Bvczko, Vannell Sikorski, Peter Bravovan.

Varsity Boy's Soccer

Coach: Brian Past

Assistant Coach: Pete Nacovski

Members: Row 1: Kyle Vrotny, Andy Pawlowski, Nick Gonzalez, Dan Kelaite. Row 2: Manager Robin Childress, Darnell Cole, Vangel Nacovski, Jeremiah Hulbert, Martin Cole, Aaron Byczko, Jim Roames. Row 3: Coach Brian Past, Peter Brasovan, Hector Mendez, Ben Daniel, Mark Megyesi, Tony Semovski, Chris Vargas, John Matusik, Jeff S. Miller, Bill Johnson.



Girl's Junior Varsity Soccer

Coach: Matt Walker

Assistant Coach: Tammy Deel

Members: Row 1: Mirjana Kljajic, Jenny Jansen, Krissi Fleck, Amanda Derazio, Julie Seagraves, Deanna Riverea, Jacqueline Lipski. Row 2: Amanda Panning, Edwina Aponte, Evelyn Tyrikos, Marisa Vawter, Tiffany White, Meghan Mauman, Heather McCoy, Julie Roames, Coach Matt Walker.



Varsity Girl's Soccer

Coach: Matt Walker

Assistant Coach: Tammy Deel

Members: Row 1: Jessica Gross, Jenny Jansen, Krissi Fleck, Brittany Williams, Aubrey Fairbairn, Stacey Kavolis, Lindsey Krumrie, Renee Ramos, Julie Seagraves. Row 2: Kimberley Roberts, Meghan Mauman, Lisa Ross, Marisa Vawter, Laura Sopko, Eryn Van Loon, Annie Stupic, Margaret Szcerba, Shenley Roberts, Coach Matt Walker.



Boy's Tennis

Coach: Dave Zimmerman

Assistant Coaches: Al Branda, Dr. Ferrar Levinson

Members: Row 1: Managers D.J. Marler, Julie Lesniak, Greg Branda, Coach Dave Zimmerman, Radhika Dave, Drake Branda, Casady Pruitt, Jessica Zimmerman. Row 2: John Vazainelli, Nicole Patterson, Chris Nahlik, Dathan Echols, Adam Deel, Joe Francis, Tony Stofko. Row 3: Cory Burkus, Ryan Moore, Ricky Bobots, Nick Corea, Ryan Hill, Ricky Holtz, Manager Dave Uemovich. Row 4: Coach Al Branda, Joe Venegas, Brandon McVade, Robin Coffey, Erik Price, Jeremy Rinker, John Jasinski, Zac Cook, Coach Dr. Ferrar Levinson.



Freshman Volleyball

Coach: Jane Warren

Members: Row 1: Mary Kate Lucas, Brittany Wiltgen. Row 2: Monique Navarro, Liz Gallinatti, Adakym Onyeka, Alisha Nails. Row 3: Coach Warren, Coach Anderson, Desiree Mc Daniel, Jenny Coats, Melissa Medanich, Kim Kish, Jamie Sweeney, Coach Wilson, Coach Tania Price.





Junior Varsity Volleyball

Coach: Tracie Anderson

Members: Row 1: Samantha Grzesik. Row 2: Kristina Aloha, Tammy Grzesik, Tamara Bowen. Row 3: Coach Warren, Amanda Burden, Megan Furlick, Janice Hallenbeck, Elizabeth Balcerak. Row 4: Coach Anderson, Kimberly Adalina Aponte, Megan Mc Phee, Coach Wilson.



Varsity Volleyball

Coach: Tania Price

Members: Row 1: Irene Menchaca. Row 2: Tiffany Sajdera, Carole Holtz, Almee Plukas, Elizabeth Balcerak, Meredith Lucas, Ashley Cak. Row 3: Jenni Orze, Lisa Newell, Coach Anderson, Coach Warren, Coach Tania Price, Coach Wilson, Leslie Newell, Larneah Delich. Row 4: Juli O'Brien, Kelly Bowen. Row 5: Carly Berdine, Jaclyn Visuee.

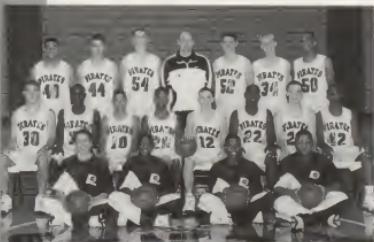


Freshmen Boy's Basketball

Coach: Zak Wells

Assistant Coach: Jim Vermillion

Members: Row 1: William Boyd-Radford, Chris Trapane. Row 2: Carl Hurd, Freddie Dobry, Chris Jeter, Wade McKinley, Jared Byczko, Chris Harris, Joe Frasca, Steven Marcus. Row 3: Igor Ristevski, Josh Diaz, Vince Torres, Geoff Lalic, Coach Zak Wells, Dave Coughlin, Keith Murphy, Brian Jostes, Pete Brasovan.



Junior Varsity Boy's Basketball

Coach: Mike Hackett

Members: Row 1: Allen Bobowsky, Reggie Williams, Keith Crittenden. Row 2: Mark Megyesi, Rameses Montgomery, Mario Simms, Omar Gore, Scott Smoljan, Gerald Mosely, Dave Pritt, Norm. Row 3: Josh Goeringer, Alex Vasilevski, Coach Mike Hackett, Erik Price, Tony Sernovski, Dave Brown.



Varsity Boy's Basketball

Coach: Jim East

Assistant Coaches: Mike Hackett, Skeeter Heath, Leo Bonin

Members: Row 1: Adam Fedak, Erik Price, Justin Johnson, Max Vavrek, Mark Megyesi, Marvin Smith. Row 2: Coach Skeeter Heath, Rameses Montgomery, Cheryl Hoagland, Jake Argenta, Coach Leo Bonin. Row 3: Manager Regge Williams, Manager Keith Crittenden, Row 4: Allen Bobowsky, Scott Smoljan, Lorrie Rendol, Sara Stanziona, Omar Gore, James Borom, Ryan Petry. Row 5: Nichole Sweeney, Armond Baskin, Coach Jim East, Tony Sernovski, Meredith Lucas, Charles. Row 6: Trainer Sherm Izzak, Martin Cole, Tina Michael, Jessica Gray, Ashley Suggs, Ryan Bailey, Jenice Carcio, Jecky Van Dusseldorp, Blue Blue, Coach Mike Hackett

Freshmen Girl's Basketball

Coach: Tom Spitzer

Members: Row 1: Celia Harold, Jennifer Griffin, Paulene Petruch, Liz Gallinatti. Row 2: Adaku Onyeaka, Alisha Nalls, Desiree Mc Daniel, Monique Navarro, Jessica Peete. Coach Joe Poteet, Tristen , Karen Davis, Kim Shapley, Coach Tom Spitzer.



Junior Varsity Girl's Basketball

Coach: Scott Staley

Assistant Coach: Tom Spitzer

Members: Row 1: Arial Denei, Tiffany Allen, Tiffany Smith, Jessica Shotts, Meagan Ternis. Row 2: Coach Scott Staley, Melissa Sanchez, Laura Sopko, Analide Aponte, Heather Renehan, Coach Tom Spitzer.



Varsity Girl's Basketball

Coach: Joe Poteet

Assistant Coaches: Scott Staley, Tom Spitzer

Members: Row 1: Morgan Marovich, Marquita Martin, Laura Jostes, Amanda Diehl, Julie Seagraves. Row 2: Keynn Pearson, Christina Peete, Kelly Pero, Allison Derico, Maegan Mc Phee, Cicely Harris. Row 3: Coach Courtney Hardin, Trainer Sean Hudson, Coach Tom Spitzer, Jennifer Orze, Janice Marler, Coach Joe Poteet, Coach Scott Staley.



Gymnastics

Coach: Diane Roberts

Assistant Coach: Bill Roberts

Members: Row 1: Kara Lux, Megan Skorupa, Katie Tanis. Row 2: Brittany Williams, Katie Dyer, Kelly Polster. Row 3: Melissa Vargas, Shenley Roberts, Katie Smith, Lisa Fastero, Kimberley Roberts, Christie Kamanaoroff. Row 4: Coach Diane Roberts, Coach Bill Roberts.



Junior Varsity Pom-poms

Coach: Jodi Mann

Members: Row 1: Trevy Ramos, Jamie Nelson, Sara Kennedy, Dominique Henry. Row 2: Tara Murphy, Theresa Nixon, Marquita Fuentes. Row 3: Jeanette Fabian, Caitlin Floyd, Patty Mersot, Deanna Howard. Row 4: Felicia Parks, Kara Miller, Jessica Wieneke.





Varsity Pom-poms

Coach: Cindy Banas

Members: Row 1: Krissi Mersot, Olivia Obregon, Stacey Kavois, Ginger Francis. Row 2: Laura Horwith, Stephanie Spangler, Ronisha Pratt, Brianne McGee, Elena Gonzalez. Row 3: Melissa Stewart, Carey Ruckman, Randi Pigg, Sandi Skratsky. Row 4: Jenny Villars, Lindsey Mysliwiec, Christina Danjanoski. Not Pictured: Tamera Bowen.



Boy's Swimming and Diving

Coach: Bryon Angerman

Diving Coach: Sean McCarthy

Members: Row 1: Mike Wadley, Josh Harveth, Ken Badylak, Whitney Lake, Jose Beneventa. Row 2: Nate Pritchard, Bill Johnson, Tim Randolph, Chris Adams, Tim Balko. Not Pictured: Peter Sierra.



Girl's Swimming and Diving

Coach: Bryon Angerman

Diving Coach: Sean McCarthy

Members: Row 1: Emily Mandich, Jenny Slivka, Kelly Buckner, Marisa Malave, Cynthia Gonzalez. Row 2: Becky Stevens, Kelly Bowen, Lisa Ross, Cassandra Pavlovich, Jenny Okichich, Claire Slivka. Row 3: Dawn Molchan, Maryanne Green, Danielle Molchan.



Wrestling

Coach: Randy Qualitza

Assistant Coach: Jason Hayes

Members: Row 1: Jill Staciak, Cory Wimmer, Albert Escobedo, Mike Rodriguez, Justin Miller, Chris Gabriel, Tony Allison, Adara Forte, Chrissy Fleck Row 2: Josh Mehay, Ryan Duff, Nick Graves, Jake Rodriguez, Jeff Talbot, Lawrence Obregon, Eric Navaro, Neil Kunz, Bob Kleinaman, Mike Mays. Row 3: P.J. Tumolo, Matt Smith, Brad Woodward, Clint Wimmer, Noah Valle, Cliff Payo, Paul Kozinski, Chris Gregory, Justin Curtis, Nick Angelidis. Row 4: Joey Jordan, Fabio, Dinenno Aquarius, Chassie Overbeek, Stewart, Jason Galney.



Freshman Baseball

Coach: Brian Jackson

Members: Row 1: Daniel Kwiatkoski, Eric Morris, Joshua Diehl, Jared Dawson. Row 2: Jared Ryczko, Joey Frasca, Adam Tegtmeyer, Brian Jostes, Derek Roldan. Row 3: Geoff Lalic, Coach Brian Jackson, Vincent Torres.

Junior Varsity Baseball

Coach: Zak Wells

Members: Row 1: Chris Gabriel, Jason Giordano, Eric Morrone, Tony Allison. Row 2: Josh Stephians, Brian Yack, Kyle Van Winkle, Craig Olis, Nick Roberts. Row 3: Ryan Romeo, Justin Curtis, Coach Zak Wells, Jason Yagelski, Chad Snitter. Not Pictured: Dan Vechey.



Varsity Baseball

Coach: Fenton Macke

Assistant Coach: Mike Krutz

Members: Row 1: Phil O'Boy, Sam Nuzzo, Nick Graves, Tony Transfiguracion, Scott Smoljan. Row 2: David Beale, John Byerly, Randall Brodner, John Matusik, Steve Gill. Row 3: Coach Fenton Macke, Coach Mike Krutz, Justin Hansen, Ryan Dulla, Jeff O'Keefe, Nick Wardrip, John Kwiatkowski.



Boy's Golf

Coach: Joe Starkey

Members: Row 1: Chris Trapane, Chris Hebert, Nick Corea, Matt Aloia. Row 2: Ryan Zurik, Ken Badylak, Nathan Wallker, Zac Cook, Chris Nahlik, Tony Stofko. Row 3: Brian Sur, Cannon, Coach Joe Starkey, Nate Reynolds, Tony Domelie.



Junior Varsity Softball

Coach: Jim Lucas

Assistant Coach: Sally Malinich

Members: Row 1: Mirjana Klajic, Erin Morgan. Row 2: Julie Seagraves, Kate Santeramo, Schenell Mc Clendon. Row 3: Kelly Polster, Melissa Vargas, Samantha Sullivan, Monique Navarro. Row 4: Melissa Russell, Jennifer Ponce, Alison Derico, Laura Jostes, Janice Hallenbeck. Row 5: Coach Sally Malinich, Jacquelyn Highsmith, Julie Trimble, Lauren Strom, Heather Renehan, Lisa Kadelak, Kim Shapley, Coach Jim Lucas.



Varsity Softball

Coach: Bob Bergeson

Assistant Coach: Andy Niksich

Members: Row 1: Crystal Croson, Randi Guernsey, Heather Hush, Desiree Mc Daniel, Meredith Lucas, Joscelyn Marquis. Row 2: Denise Miranda, Natalie Martin, Jamie Bainbridge, Carole Holtz, Julie Hoover, Tiffany Smith. Row 3: Coach Andy Niksich, Carly Berdine, Jackie Visue, Jennifer Orze, Coach Bob Bergeson.





Girl's Tennis

Coach: Dave Zimmerman

Assistant Coach: Larry Swanson, Ferrar Levinson

Members: Row 1: Julie Lesniak, Sarah Jurisa, Kara Lux, Jenny Ramirez, Ariel Denby. Row 2: Camille Campos, Blythe Bertolo, Casady Pruitt, Amanda Valse, Sevia Vazanellis, Nicole Sparger, Jessica Zimmerman, Cathienn Szt. Row 3: Coach Ferrar Levinson, Mgr. Brandon Mc Vade, Amanda Diehl, Sarah Stackert, Radhika Coach, Janice Marler, Lisa Ross, Tiffany Sadjera, Molly Burt, Coach Janice Marler, Coach Diane Zimmerman, Coach Diane Zimmerman.



Boy's Track and Field

Coach: Jim Johnston

Assistant Coaches: Jeff Clinkenbeard, Matt Walker, Chris Fields



Girl's Track and Field

Coach: Joe Atria

Assistant Coach: Ryan Pitcock, Mike Hoffman, Phil Hey

Members: Row 1: Jessie Gross, Lindsey Krumrie, Candace Woods, Mgr. Ms. Rothstein, Rachel Pittler, Mgr. Kim Smith, Natalie Lindsey, Tyanna Keng, Jacky Van Dusseren. Row 2: Tara Mayersky, Jennifer Arambula, Katie Froyd, Michele Ristovski, Anna Koenig, Leah Weingarten, Alyssa Mihalek, Alyssa Petrich, Row 3: Leah Weingarten, Alyssa Mihalek, Anna Koenig, Leah Weingarten, Alyssa Muro, Amy Pivoznay, Paulette Petrucci, Trisha Hynes. Row 4: Kaita Dyer, Korina Gates, Elizabeth Sullivan. Row 5: Michelle Ryton, Amy Pivoznay, Alyssa Szanyi, Krystle Jones, Greta Poyer, Elizabeth Sullivan. Row 6: Michelle Janosch, Alysha Colemen, Leslie Klemm, Coach Phil Hey.



Jake Argenta shoots a jumper during the Basketball Homecoming game against Michigan City.



Coach Joe Atria and several members of the girls' track team take a minute to relax and watch their competitors.



Comical facial expressions are a trademark of Robin Childress, who displays one as she performs with the Vocalteens. Childress stayed extremely involved in Show Choir, Vocalteens, the Dramatic Society, and various productions during her four years as a Pirate.

• Leaping an impression

EXPRESSION

MUSIC, THEATER, art, dance - There were many ways to express oneself, and the outlets of expression revealed a person's interests and desires to others.

THE FALL PRODUCTION of "Harvey" was full of talent and humor. Of course, the six-foot invisible white rabbit named Harvey left his mark on everyone.

THERE WAS YET another combination of the choral and drama departments in the spring musical, "Anything Goes."

THE CHOIR also made an impressive journey to the Bahamas aboard the Big Red Boat during spring break.

THE INSPIRATIONAL CHOIR made a great impression for themselves through several performances, one of them at the chapel of Valparaiso University.

BAND AND ORCHESTRA members again competed in the ISSMA solo and ensemble contest and had many successful performances to be proud of. Their winter and spring shows gave them opportunities to show off this talent.

WHETHER ONE was singing in the chorus or was captain of the color guard, each found his or her own way to leave an impression through expression.

—SPREAD BY TIFFANY STOCHEL AND JACOB CAMP

The Inspirational Choir sings their hearts out and gets very involved with the music at a performance at the Valparaiso University chapel.

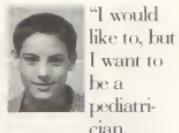


Darius Echols grasps his saxophone at his side and plays a melodious solo during a band concert.



Several orchestra members diligently follow the lead of director John Bradford during the group's winter concert.

ARE YOU PLANNING TO PURSUE A CAREER IN THE ARTS? WHY OR WHY NOT?

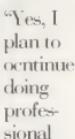


However, I plan to stay in choir for all four years.

- BRANDON WALDORP, '03

"Yes, I am going to minor in theater in college and get a degree, but I would love to continue in any kind of performing arts throughout my life."

- AMANDA ELSER, '02



"Yes, I plan to continue doing professional

work in Chicago, and Lord willing, some day on Broadway."

- MATTHEW RIVERA, '00

What was your favorite part of the play?



"When they were at the hospital and he (Elwood) kept seeing the rabbit."

Kevin Farmer, '03



"Josh was funny the whole time."

Felicia Parks, '03



"I really don't have a favorite part. The whole play was funny."

Katie O'Brien, '03

"When they put the lady (Vera Louise) in the insane asylum. She wasn't crazy—the guy was."

Jessica Wieneke, '03



Nurse Ruth Kelly, played by Amanda McIntire, listens to the happy-go-lucky words of Elwood Dowd (Josh Gaboian) in a disbelieving manner. Dowd's charming ways begin to have a positive effect on Kelly as the play progresses.

Draune Wilson (Matt Rivera) seduces Myrtle Mae (Tiffany Stoehrer) in an aggressive yet playful way. The two had much fun in their roles, especially in this particular scene.



Dr. Chumley (Mike Zelisko) questions Dr. Sanderson (Matt Cunningham) and Nurse Kelly (McIntire) as to why Veta Louise was put in the asylum's care instead of Elwood.





Seeing Elwood's Pooka

Imaginary friends and crazy asylums would just begin to describe the outstanding fall play, "Harvey." The play was performed on the 11, 12, and 13 of November. It attracted a nice-sized audience, which was very active and responsive to the play. Sarah Liakos, '00, said, "It was a really good play, and Josh Gaboian was awesome and hilarious."

The play was directed by drama teacher Beverley Seaver, Robin Childress, '00, and Delia Neylon, '02. The cast consisted of 12 principle roles, two realtors, and several tea party ladies.

Auditions for the play took place in early October. The cast rehearsed for one month prior to the play, putting in up to three hours of hard work every day. The dedication put in by the actors was obvious on the days of the performances.

Definition

Pooka: From old Celtic mythology, a fairy spirit in animal form, always very large. The Pooka appears here and there, now and then, to this one and that one at his own caprice.

The play was about a guy named Elwood Dowd (Josh Gaboian, '00) who had a six and a half foot rabbit as an imaginary friend. Veta Louise (Melissa Loar, '00) Elwood's sister, and Myrtle Mae, (Tiffany Stochel, '00) his niece, thought Elwood was crazy and wanted to put him in an asylum. They took him to the asylum, and that was when the chaos all began. Dr. Sanderson (Matt Cunningham, '02) mistook Veta Louise for being crazy rather than Elwood. Arrogant Duane Wilson (Matt Rivera, '00) was an attendant at the asylum and was attracted to Myrtle Mae. The two created quite a comical pair.

The moral of "Harvey" was people are who they are, and others should not try to change them. People needed to learn how to accept people for being themselves.

— SPREAD BY LINDSEY KRUMRIE, MANDY KOMENDA, RANDI GUERNSEY, AND CICELY HARRIS



After an inquiry from Mrs. Chumley and several references to the word, Duane Wilson (Rivera) concentrates on finding the definition of the word "pooka."

In a crazed state after escaping from the asylum, Veta Louise is calmed down by Myrtle Mae (Stochel) and Judge Gaffney (Zach Scott).

The basic Do-Re-Mi's

Attend one choir concert and within minutes you knew what all the hype was about the MHS choir: These kids could sing. Under director Roger Eung, the choirs traveled as far as to the Bahamas to share their musical gifts with others. Choir evolved into more than just singing traditional songs. The students belted out snappy tunes accompanied with entertaining choreography.

All this action didn't fall into place overnight, though. In addition to practicing daily in class, the choirs rehearsed after school twice a week in the winter and every day in the spring. Their dance teacher, Mrs. Mertens, was there every step of the way teaching them new moves to go with their songs. According to Tara Mayersky, '00, it was worth it because "the Show Choir busts a move every Choir Concert."

It makes me nervous, but excited. I'm always worried I'll fall, and my skirt will come off or something."

Most people didn't realize that choir was like a family. Everyone had to work together to synchronize and execute a perfect performance. Some of the seemingly big disasters turned into happy memories. Ralph Holt, '00, fondly recalled how funny it was at "the Christmas Concert when Josh Gaboian danced and Robin Childress's dress strap fell off. That's my favorite memory."

Though it was a time consuming activity, it formed lasting bonds. Kristen Crikari, '00, exclaimed, "It consumes a lot of time. However, because we're so close, the group makes the time pass quickly. It's hard to balance out time for everything, but in the end, choir is totally worthwhile."

— SPREAD BY MICHELLE UREMOVICH, LISA FASTERO, ERICA KIMBLE, AND LACARA BAZZIEL

The Velyteens join together to form a kick line during their performance.



Josh Gaboian shows off his dancing skills at the Christmas Concert. Gaboian was a highlight of the night, according to Ralph Holt.





Vocalen members perform "One Magic Christmas," their individual medley for the winter concert.



Kyle Vrotny, Melissa Loar, Darnell Cole, and Beth Elliott join hands to take their final bow for the audience.



Members of the Varsity choir focus on projecting their voices and keeping their eyes on the director.



Jeanie Hughes, Mandy Elser, Samantha Argue, and Tina Colburn use their choreography to get into the music. The all-girls show choir, known as the Velveteens, often incorporated dance moves into their musical performances.

The words and notes of song are so powerful and full of emotion that they can draw an audience into the music.

Tiffany Stoechel tries to capture the audience as she performs a solo during the concert.



With quite a change from the upbeat tempos and rhythmic dancing, the Choralteens, under the direction of Roger Enig, include some classical pieces in their repertoire.



Springing into Song

With the Christmas Concert under their belts, what did the choir have left to accomplish in the spring? A whole lot!

Upon returning from Christmas break, choir directors Roger Enig and Joy Brown began as soon as possible on preparing the students for their next big project—the Bahamas.

Not all of the choir members took part in this activity, but the majority still had to learn all of the music and choreography involved. Many hours of dance and vocal practice caused fatigue and frustration, but it was worth it in the end.

Spring Break arrived, and with Mr. and Mrs. Brown and several other chaperones, the choir was destined for the tropics.

It was an experience that will never be forgotten. They traveled aboard the Big

Red Boat. The crowning moment came when they were able to perform the show that they had worked so hard on right onboard. In the following days, the choir soaked up the sun on the beaches of Salt Cay, walked through the Bahamas market place, and experienced many new foods.

After the Bahamas, the choir produced one of the best Spring concerts ever. With multiple solos and duets, the show included music from a variety of cultures and time periods.

The Vocalteens even added extra rehearsals in order to perform some recent hits with some difficult choreography. A fantastic light show accompanied the music and dancing. All the choirs gave their all to create a dazzling performance and end the year in a blaze of glory.

—SPREAD BY TIFFANY STOCHEL



Members of the Concert Choir contribute their voices to the piece. Proper vocal technique, such as breath support, must be used to create the desired sound.

Members of the Varsity Choir demonstrate their posture and poise as they focus on making the song the best it can be.



Bursting full of Talent

It was a night full of ravishing voices, unbelievable magic, incredible bands, spectacular dancing, and comical acting. There was only one place that a person could hope to find all of these acts together in one place. It was at the Revue 2000.

This event had a later start this year because the show took place in April instead of its usual spot earlier in the school year. However, the date change didn't seem to cause any problems.

According to director Beverly Seaver, this year's Revue produced the largest and most talented group of students that she has seen yet. It was a difficult job for her and student directors Melissa Kish, '01, and Tiffany Stoechel, '00, to decided on which acts would be a part of the show.

The final cast list crammed as many diverse acts into the show as possible. The percussion trio of Ryan Jezuit, Jeremy

Rinker, and Nate Lazey, all '00, moved the audience with their catchy beats. Two bands, Pump 7 and Condiment Tray, started and ended, respectively, the night of talent. Other acts included a salsa and rap number from Brenda Riley, '00, and her backup dancers.

In addition, Jennifer Bronowski, '00; Brandi Lewis, '00; and Lydia Smith, '02, were just a few of the performers who performed vocal solos. There was also dancing, acting, and much more. All of the acts were tied together under a millennium theme. It involved Laurie Faver, '01, becoming Professor Serious to lead the rest of the diverse characters throughout the decades. Some skits included Charlie's Angels, Sonny and Cher, Tom Green, Austin Powers, and the Village People.

The Revue was a success hopefully, inue for years to come.

— SPREAD BY TIFFANY STOCHEL

A chest hair sandwich is just what the doctor ordered for Tom Green, who is played by English teacher John Lamber-



Bands were an important part of the Revue. It gave some talented groups the chance to show off for a few nights of glory. Derek Roldan feels the music while playing the guitar with his band, Pump 7.





HOW DID YOU FEEL ABOUT BEING INVOLVED IN THE REVUE?



"It was a different experience for me, because unlike my choir performances, there were a variety of acts, and I did a lot of practicing on my own."

Jennifer Bronowski, '00

Ray Keilman poses as Luke Skywalker opposite Josh Gaboian's Darth Vader in a comical Revue skit. These skits gave some relief in between the many talent acts that made up Revue 2000.



Nate Lacy not only wows the crowd with his magic act, but he also shows his expertise on the drums. He was one of a percussion trio named "Junk Funk Jam."

Ebony Carter fills the room with her powerful voice while the audience cheers her on. She and her group performed Aaliyah's "I Don't Wanna." It was one of the many vocal ensembles present at the show.

Brandon McVade, Jeff Roth, and Corrie Nash unite with their trumpets in order to create a loud yet rich sound.



Sonaria Thompson and Kristie McMillan play the National Anthem during a football pregame show.



Bret Sager plays a solo on his saxophone while John Padberg, Ryan Romeo, and Katie Pumura wait for their cue to join in.



Playing full of Harmony

Red poinsettias filled the auditorium, and rich Christmas music filled the air. Each student, teacher, and parent was filled with the holiday spirit at the band's annual Christmas Concert.

The band Christmas Concert was full of fun and excitement. It really brought the Christmas spirit out of me," said Aleia Rambert, '01. The concert's repertoire included songs such as "Jingle Bells," "We Wish You a Merry Christmas," and "Silent Night."

Besides the Christmas Concert, the band was involved in several other activities. One was the I.U. Band Day. Katrese Sawyer, '02, was one of the participants, and she said, "It was fun, and I loved it!" Sawyer was in the marching band and pep band, and one of the best things about the band concerts was how "the music always fell into place."

Mark Koves, '02, was also involved in the

marching band, which performed at many of the football games during the year. While Koves wants to become a composer later in life, some of his best band memories included "learning more music" and "becoming good friends with certain people."

Several bands make up the entire band program, such as the Pep Band, Concert Band, Wind Ensemble, Symphonic Band, Marching Band, Percussion Ensemble, and the jazz bands, Jazz Impact and Jazz

Impressions. Each band allows its members to find their own special niche of music preference as well as playing ability within the program.

Pep band was the place where Jeff Meding, '02, finally found his place. He also achieved his goal to

Continued page 100

Practicing HARP
All the rehears-
ing of music and
marching band
off when Paid
band took first
in the marching
contest.

— SPREAD BY LACARA BAZZIEL AND TIFFANY STOCHEL

Shea
Street
keeps
the
rhythm
with his
baritone
sax
during
the
Christmas
Concert.

At the concert on the music, Kyle Beshears skillfully plays the bassoon a deep, rich sound. A double reed instrument, the bassoon is one of the more difficult woodwinds to play.



Playing full of Harmony

continued

"become a better musician."

Jazz band was the favorite activity of Laura Horwith, '01. "I love playing with the jazz band," she said, and it was evident. Horwith earned the status of "Outstanding Soloist" on the band's trip to King's Island.

No matter which band each student chose to be a part of, most commented about all the practice that was required in order to make the band as well-organized and full of harmony as it was.

Meding enjoyed practicing the least, but he attributed the fact that the band won many first place awards and top division ratings to the practice they did.

Koves said that "every band rehearsal" was the worst part of being in band, but he also talked of receiving a first in competition as well as in the marching concert. "Practice" was why he thought the band achieved so much.

Practice, practice, practice!!
The marching band practices marching in a parade.

Missing
CLAY

"The band will succeed, but missing Clay will be hard," said Jeff Meding.

Although the band had many wonderful accomplishments during the year, one sad note dampened the harmony. Long-time director Mary Clay finished her last year with the band. She has a new and fresh life ahead of her, but it was difficult for everyone to say goodbye.

"I'm going to miss her so much. It won't be the same," said Horwith.

"We love Mrs. Clay and wish her the best," commented Sawyer.

With Mrs. Clay leaving, there will be some big shoes to fill, but students still had high hopes for the band.

Koves said, "The band program can only get stronger. Hopefully, the new person will do bigger and better things, but we'll miss her."

— SPREAD BY LACARA BAZZIEL AND TIFFANY STOCHEL



Director Mary Clay keeps her eyes on the music and the band in order to give the students the proper volume and technique cues, as well as their cues to start and stop playing.



Deeon Peden takes her turn at playing the trombone. She proves that the instrument can be seen as well as heard.



The drum line plays percussion on the sidelines while the rest of the band takes to the field. Playing at the football games was a major portion of the band's yearly activities.

The cymbals have to be handled correctly and played at just the right time. Bill Connelly takes the responsibility of the cymbals as well as other parts of the percussion section.

SENIORS RECALL FONDEST MEMORIES



"In contest, Nikki Eich lost her shoe and had to finish the rest with one shoe." **Katie Pumnea '00**

"Performing to 'Mission Impossible Theme' on senior night 1999." **Katie Smith '00**



"At 1998 contest we had to remake our presentation." **Jermece Williamson '00**

"On the bus, we all had straws in our hair and were connected in one big circle." **Valerie Plummer '00**

Members of Color Guard gather in center court complete with their Santa hats. The performance definitely put the fans in the Christmas spirit.

During their first performance in halftime, Rachael Weems pleases the crowd with her smile.



Lisa Vartanoff and Kaye Smith get ready to flip their flags around for the crowd's entertainment.





MHS Color Guard

Did you ever wonder what it took to be a part of the MHS Color Guard? Girls who tried out for the team realized that it took many hours of hard work and determination.

The tryouts this year consisted of a flag routine, a dance routine, and a marching routine. The girls then had to spend the summer practicing and getting ready for the upcoming season. Most of their practices were held with the band.

The week before school started, the team practiced every day at band camp with the band and the pom-poms. They practiced from eight in the morning until six P.M. or later every day. These practices were held to help the Color Guard learn the routines and music of the band.

As a team, the Color Guard had a goal to stay together during the routines

and have fun while doing it.

Diana Quintanilla, '02, said that they accomplished this goal. "Although keeping the entire Color Guard together and on the same beat was difficult."

Attempting to dance and toss their flags was also a very difficult task for the girls. Patience and concentration were essential for these girls to have a successful season.

Besides performing at every home football game, the girls also attended a competition with the band at Indiana University and performed in parades.

The performance that the Color Guard put on during the half-time shows with the band added excitement. The crowd watched in awe as the huge flags flew gracefully into the air thrown by these talented girls. Their tremendous efforts were strongly appreciated by their audiences.

— SPREAD BY JILLIAN BAZZIEL, AMANDA LAVIOLETTE, JAKE CAMP, AND KRISI MERSOT

Definition

Determination
firmness of purpose; resolve. A fixed intention or resolution.



Diana Quintanilla walks off the football field after a performance. The smile on her face proves the performance was a success.

Katie
Smith
and
Jarmee

William-
son twirl
their flags
as they
march
during
the
Home-
coming
parade.

Playing for the Enjoyment

It was the second year for two orchestras and the second year for director John Bradford.

The Symphonic Orchestra was made up of juniors and seniors while the Concert Orchestra was made up of freshmen and sophomores. At some point in the future, the two orchestras' make up may be determined by the student's ability, but for the first few years grouping by grade has worked well.

With a lot of hard work by both Bradford and his students, the orchestras continued to improve as students refined their playing skills. At the same time, students spent hours practicing because they truly enjoyed the music and working together as a group.

Something the orchestras did differently this year was their Christmas Con-

cert. Usually the group has had a separate concert, but this year the two orchestras joined with the band for this concert. One reason for this involved the number of students who played instruments in both the band and orchestra.

In addition, to their busy concert schedule, Merrillville High School played host to the Indiana State School Music Association High School District Organizational Contest. Participating schools included Valparaiso, Portage, Crown Point, Lake Central, Merrillville, Calumet, Morgan Township, Hanover Central, North Newton, Highland, Edison, and Munster.

Besides playing in orchestra class, students were encouraged to play in the pit orchestra for the school musical. Tom Escort, '00, also participated in the Northwest Indiana Youth Orchestra.

Definition
orchestra:
noun A group
of musicians
who play to-
gether on vari-
ous instru-
ments.

— SPREAD BY MICHELLE UREMOVICH, LISA FASTERO, ERICA KIMBLE, AND LACARA RAZZIEL

Eye
Matczak
plays her
violin at the
Christmas
Concert
which
was
combined
with the
band this
year.



Josef Delacruz draws his bow across the strings of his violin as he concentrates on his music at the Christmas Concert.





Par Perovich concentrates on his bow work as he watches conductor John Bradford.



Eric Meeks plays his bass, an important instrument because it provides the beat and helps link different sounds together.

The violin section waits for its cue from director John Bradford. String instruments are among the most difficult to master.



The Inspirational Choir strikes a pose. With eyes focused and arms outstretched above, the group demonstrates its devotion and faith.

With microphone in hand, Kendall Martin belts out his solo for the audience. Martin believed that the smaller choir helped encourage interaction between the members.



Students from the Inspirational Choir clap to keep the beat of the music and show that having faith can also involve having fun.



New Choir strives Higher

Over the past years, the Inspirational Choir evolved into what has become one of the most entertaining groups to see at Merrillville High School. With teacher Sheldon Floyd to assist these talented students, they successfully fulfilled their year as a diverse body. Numerous students devoted their time and effort to this extra-curricular activity. "I think the Inspirational Choir helped me, as well as others, to become more spiritually inclined," said Cheryl Perkins, '01.

The choir not only allowed students to focus more on their faith, but it also enabled them to reach out to other students in an influential way. Kendall Martin, '00, a devoted member of the Inspirational Choir said, "The Inspirational Choir has changed since it was first

established last year. It seems as if there were more choir members last year than this year," Martin added. "The sudden loss of members has been very beneficial to the choir as a whole. A smaller choir has enabled us to interact with each other better and perform certain tasks more effectively."

Their name described exactly what they accomplished. The Inspirational Choir inspired people of all ages to understand the importance of unity and love.

Although many members will be graduating and leaving the choir behind, they won't leave behind all that was learned from this wonderful experience. Hopefully, the choir will continue to flourish and grow in size during the upcoming years drawing others into the organization.

— SPREAD BY LINDSEY KRUMRIE, MANDY KOMENDA, RANDI GUERNSEY, AND CICELY HARRIS

Showing FAITH
The Inspirational
Choir took pride
in their group and
showed people the
importance of
love and faith.



Leader Sheldon Floyd
introduces the choir at its
performance at
Valparaiso University's
chapel.

Members of the choir
truly
brought as
well as a
drum set to
add the
beat and a
catchy
rhythm to
the music.

Anything goes At MHS

On the evenings of March 9-12 Merrillville students had the opportunity to see the spectacular performance of "Anything Goes." Tryouts for the play were held in early January. After the casts were chosen they began practicing every day after school from 3 to 5 P.M. Dance practices were held on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 6 to 9 P.M. to learn tap dancing.

The musical took place aboard a ship with many guests who were played by members of the MHS choir. The main plot of the play was for Billy Crocker, played by Josh Gaboian, '00, and Kyle Vronney, '01, to win back his love, Hope Harcourt (Beth Elliott and Jennifer Bronowski, both '00). There were many schemes and disguises that made the musical humorous and very chaotic at the same time.

"Anything Goes" was double cast for

the lead roles. Gaboian commented on the pros and cons of having a double cast.

"On the positive side you get rest sometimes and can observe someone else playing your part, but you don't get to practice every day."

During the many practices and performances the cast of "Anything Goes" grew to be very close. Beth Elliott felt that the best part of being in plays were the connections you made with the people. Elliott said, "The friendships I made with my drama friends are ones that I will always remember."

Spending so much time together made many memories for the cast. Kristen Cribari, '00, said, "I feel the most memorable time was the performances. It's just the adrenaline I feel each time I get on stage. It's the best feeling in the world." That feeling definitely showed during the performances because "Anything Goes" proved to be a huge success.

Dancing STEPS

The cast of "Anything Goes" had to learn and perfect the very difficult task of tap dancing in a mere two and a half months.

Kyle Vronney, Robbi Chidester, and Matt Cunningham smile as they sing and dance together.

— SPREAD BY AMANDA LAVIOLETTE, MARYANN JACI BOGER, AND LACARA BAZZIEL



Kristen Cribari laughs as she talks with Amanda McIntyre on the ship deck of "Anything Goes."





**WHAT WAS MOST
EXCITING FOR YOU WHILE
WORKING ON THIS
MUSICAL?**



"My favorite part was definitely the dancing we performed as the chorus."

**Jessica Gray,
'00**



Beth Elliott, Melissa Loar, and Mike Zelisko take a stroll on the deck while discussing their journey to New York.

Ralph Holt creeps on the floor reaching slyly for his gun. Holt played the part of "Moonface," a criminal on the run, in the play.

Tiffany Stochel who played Reno Sweeney, a sexy nightclub singer, smiles as she prepares to sing the musical's namesake, "Anything Goes."

Color Guard

Director: Jody Zawodni

Members: Angela De Jesus, Nicole Eich, Dikah Joyner, Valerie Plummer, Katie Pumnea, Melissa Ramirez, Kasey Samson, Katie Smith, Kaye Smith, Aubrey Szany, Lisa Vartonoff, Rachel Weems, Jermece Williamson.



Concert Band - Group 1

Director: Mary Clay

Members: Row 1: Diana Hughes, Laura Vaughn, Sharon Hawkins, Candice Wood, Sara Valdez, Nicole Patterson, Samantha Sullivan. Row 2: Kathleen Hyzy, Heather McCoy, Melissa Robinson, Matt Hall, Christina Peschke, Katie O'Brien, Sherry Kwell. Row 3: Caitlin Floyd, Caleb Bateman, Dave Rooda, Brandon Miller, Jenna Throw, Abby Hacker. Row 4: Jeanette Fabian, Jenni Coates, Jessica Wieneke, Kelly Swickard, Aubrey Brainard.



Concert Band - Group 2

Director: Mary Clay

Members: Row 1: Darius Smith, Dikah Joyner, Shannon Kimbrough, Marvin Torrence, Chris Agne. Row 2: Patrice Selmon, Schmekia Hinton, Emily Graun, Becky Stephen. Row 3: Noyan Olcum, Adam Lewis, Mark Roberts. Row 4: Brenton Connelly, Aaron Clemens, Nick Janakievski, Brian Boksa.



Concert Band - Group 3

Director: Mary Clay

Members: Row 1: Paul Kurczynski, Domenica Campos, Malorie Mitchell, Kaye Smith, Deanna Howard, Donovan Kepchar. Row 2: Kevin Mestrovich, Jason O'Hearn, Woods, Jim Kuzminski, Parker Johnson. Row 3: Henry Jackowski, Steven Marcus, Chris Harris, Tito Savage, Zerubbabel Lewis, Pavlo Laorden. Row 4: Kyle Beshears, Angolo Anton, Lee Cotton, John Lynn, Brian Zelisko, Jon Vergin.



Concert Choir

Director: Roger Emig

Members: Row 1: Kara Miller, Almee Street, Kelli Fravel, Carl Hurd, Reggie Holt, Marc Gates, Lizzy Elder, Ashley Liddell. Row 2: Julia Frey, Tiffany Davis, Erica Brown, Charles Hurd, Pedro Rangel, Jaime Ortiz, Meagan Hampton, Robin Urbans, Lisa Vartanoff. Row 3: Tialren Bagulen, Emily Gandy, Jenny Yen, Ryan Moore, David Soteras, Karen Gress, Mariana Magleski, Krissy Jackomis. Row 4: Lydia Smith, Anomi Fernando, Sonilia Lopez, Chase Overbeek, Kris Greene, Veronica Flores, Amanda Vango, Jenny Leonard. Row 5: Tiffany Wesley, Pearlene Barkdale, Laura Gestring, Craig Zaremba, Fred Thiel, Debbie Jorgensen, Denise Damion, Jackie Naujokas.





Concert Orchestra

Director: John Bradford

Members: Row 1: Renee Griggs, Fred Dobry, Nicole Sparger, Janice Hallenbeck. Row 2: Jacqueline Lipski, Theresa Schubert, Lauren Homola, April Ramirez, Vanessa Delacruz, Nina Ellinger, Adaku Onyeke. Row 3: Eve Matczak, Destiny Mathis, Josef Delacruz, Amie Valdez, Daniel Padberg, Hank Tolhuizen, Pauline Petrich, Monique Navarro, Joe Jordan. Row 4: Geoff Lalic, Paul Best, Tom Rousis, Pat Petrovich, Joe Junisa, James Hiddle, Guillie Dabu, Steven Doxas, Jim Kelly. Not pictured: Michael Berta, Michael Gonzalez, Derek Wampler, Cynthia Bulanda, Christina Georgevich, Kristina Artibey, Rob Banks.



Dramatic Society

Director: Beverley Seaver

Members: Row 1: Robin Childress, Sarah Liakos, Melissa Loar. Row 2: Cynthia Hunke, Katie Floyd, Kristina Dabu, Sharon Hawkins, Damara Hamlin, Jeannie Hughes, Josh Gaboian. Row 3: Stephanie Hall, Laura Horwith, Mandy Eiser, Kate Czubik, Tiffany Stochel, Sponsor Beverley Seaver, Tom Dobes. Row 4: Peter Gaines, Cindy Wahman, Molly Draper, Dee Neylor, Jennifer Birchnowski, Nellisa Shaver, Karen Gresh, Ralph Williams. Row 5: Caleb Blerman, Mike Zelisko, Nicole Bielak, Laure Farver, Heather Philippe, Jaime Ortiz, Kyle Vrotny. Row 6: Matthew Cunningham, Jon Jasinski, Darnell Cole Jr., Jeffrey Roth, Amanda McIntire, Ray Keilman, Aleksandar Goreski, Ashley McNeil, Colleen Brown.



Inspirational Choir

Director: Sheldon Floyd

Members: Row 1: Erika Brown, Kaye Smith, Jared Reed, Kendall Martin, Paul Best, Dana Cudjoe, Veronica Phelps. Row 2: SeAnn Collins, Cheryl Perkins, Terrence Campbell, Lothar Sickles, Antinette Torrence, Chaya Hayes. Row 3: Julian Dawson, Lynette Ellison, Ashley Weemes, Darnell Blackmon, Adam Pierce, Jocelyn Blanchard, Danah Frazier. Row 4: Monique Emmons, Tyanna King, Michael Ford, Shamika Hinton, Jennifer Reid.



Jazz Impact

Director: Mary Clay

Members: Row 1: Kevin Koves, Marisa Valdez, Carrie Nash, Katie Pumrea, Jeff Roth. Row 2: Laura Horwith, Tony Transfiguracion, Eileen Peden, James Lutinen, Justin Porter. Row 3: Kristofer Dabu, Ed Villarreal, Ryan Jezuit, John Padberg, Angelo Anton, Ryan Midkiff. Row 4: Dathan Echols, Justin Kelly, Bret Sager, Brandon McVade, David Neville, Ryan Romeo.



Jazz Impressions

Director: Mary Clay

Members: Row 1: Marvin Torrence, Tony Allison, Sharon Hawkins, Chris Wisner, Mark Roberts. Row 2: Beck Stephen, Jerome Williams, Adam Lewis, Marissaawer. Row 3: Chris Nahlik, Paula Laorden, Tom Hancock, Kevin Lewis, Dathan Echols. Row 4: David Neville, Dan Estes, Jimmy Procter, Jon Jasinski, Kevin Sager.

Percussion Ensemble

Director: Mary Clay

Members: Row 1: Lindsay Lubovich, Mark Koves, Breon Rogers. Row 2: Brandon Marcus, Tito Savage, Terrence Campbell, Dave Neville. Row 3: Jon Jasinski, Nate Osborne.



Show Choir

Director: Roger Emig

Members: Row 1: Jennifer Ramirez, Amy Watts, Melissa Gray, Krissi Mersot, Tara Mayersky, Tiffany Stochel, Robin Childress, Brandi Lewis. Row 2: Carolyn Sprague, Sarah Snaque, Kristen Cribari, Jacky Van Dusseldorf, Rick Sandi, Josh Gaboian, Jennifer Bronowski, Sarah Liakos. Row 3: Kelley Sullivan, Beth Elliott, Kristine Dabu, John Stavik, Matthew Rivera, Ralph Williams, Tiffany Fizer, Jessica Gray. Row 4: Ashley Coleman, Tracey Rico, Darnell Cole Jr., Jason McGee, Terrie Maddox, Alaina Fasel, Melissa Loar. Row 5: Mike Lord, Matthew Cunningham, Erik Price, Chuck Stojakovich.



Symphonic Band - Group 1

Director: Mary Clay

Members: Row 1: Deborah Hawkins, Severina Spivey, Kryssi Fleck, Ginger Francis, Amanda Panning, Tiffany Allen, Stephanie Wusik. Row 2: Jennifer Jackowski, Krystle Scholtens, Dana English, Marquita Fuentes, Lanicka Lewis, Amy Petruch. Row 3: Liz Largent, Aleia Rambert, Gen Tucker, Vicky Cantrell, Liz Henderson. Row 4: Britney Grimmer, Colleen Regan, Josh Agne, Marissa Vawter, Leah Weatherington, Katie Sawyer.



Symphonic Band - Group 2

Director: Mary Clay

Members: Row 1: Peter Sierra, Victor Espinosa, Arial Dennie, Allison Derico, Chris Wisner, Chris Nahlik. Row 2: Jerry Bruan, Andrew Swierc, Haatal Dave, Nick Graves, Ed Gomez. Row 3: Dathan Echols, Carlton Ayers, Allen Bobowsky, Brandon McVade, Ryan Romeo. Row 4: Jimmy Procter, Chris Drapeau, Tim Randolph, Randy Brodner, Claude Powers, Arthur Jackson.



Symphonic Band - Group 3

Director: Mary Clay

Members: Row 1: Kevin Lewis, Matt Jagiela, Casey Frey, Cindy Hunke, Breon Rodgers, Mark Koves. Row 2: Jamaal Keeton, Rickie Donaldson, Terry Judkins, Lindsey Lubovich, Tim Stoner, Jeff Meding, Immanuel Henderson. Row 3: Dan Estes, Mike Szurko, Marc Maple, John Jasinski, Mike Zelisko, Taiwan Alford. Row 4: Nnanna Onyeaka, John Lynn, David Perry, Oswald Flores, Kevin Sager, Nate Osborne.



Symphonic Orchestra



Director: John Bradford

Members: Row 1: Jeff S. Miller, Lucas Peters, Katie Dyer, Claire Silvika, Lunetta Ellison, Jeremy Greene, Jeff A. Miller. Row 2: Jennifer Plys, Aubrey Szanyi, Melissa Sanchez, SaAndrea Collins, Lauren Hacker, Jennifer Rushack, Lisa Newell, Kasey Samson, Ti-Yon Ward, Natalie Lindsey, Kelly Polonczky. Row 3: Mrs. Kanestrom, Beth Mallock, Delia Neylon, Tifani Jenkins, Loretta Petrovich, Lacie Hacker, Sara Stanzione, Maryanne Green, Chia Chiang, Nichole Pounds, Director John Bradford. Row 4: Jon McCarty, Eric Meeks, Tony Allison, Ryan Hill, Chris Kors, Evan Hoglund, Jon Virgo, Rick Maj, Kim Krizman, Kris Dabu. Not Pictured: Thurn Escott, Joe Gregory.



Thespian Troupe #1692

Director: Beverley Seaver

Members: Row 1: Robin Childress, Jeannie Hughes, Laura Horwitz, Tiffany Stochel, Jennifer Bronowski, Sarah Liakos. Row 2: Sponsor Beverley Seaver, Dee Neylon, Jeffrey Roth, Kristine Dabu, Kate Czubik, Melissa Loar, Kyle Vrotny. Row 3: Peter Gaines, Mylou Draper, Mandy Elser, Tom Dobes, Laurie Farver, Josh Gaboian. Row 4: Matthew Cunningham, Mike Zelisko, Darnell Cole Jr., Amanda McIntire, Ray Keliman, Ralph Williams.



Varsity Choir

Director: Joy Brown

Members: Row 1: Chantese Williams, Melissa Duttweiler, Nicole Bielek, Katie Tapis, Yvonne Martinez, Christine Uzelac, Meagan Sylva, April Graves, Demetria Messengill. Row 2: Casady Pruitt, Angela Doering, Shalonda Hicks, Emily Mandich, Mary Kate Lucas, Sarah Kennedy, Fontaine Stegall, Jennifer Griffin, Jennifer Ponca. Row 3: Josefina Bridges, Christine Aloia, Sabrina Hennessey, Mykah Johnson, Lindsey Willis, Jessica Kelly, Brittany Wilgen, Maya Goldstein, Ianesha Amey, Eleuxus Wisse. Row 4: Crystal Mays, Kristin Johnson, Jennifer Ponca, Kristin Bronowski, Cora Gray, Felicia Parks, Kate Santeramo, Candice Turner, Julie Romano, Daurianna Wilson, Diane Petty. Row 5: La-Shauna Beard, Ashley McNeil, Laura Sopko, Heather Phillippe, Shama Tucker, Stephanie bigelow, Jennifer Silvika, Molly Burt, Kethleen Szot, Liz Rund, Tristen Congress.



Velveteens

Director: Roger Emig

Members: Row 1: Mandy Elser, Nilaja Neely, Jeannie Hughes, Julie Lesniak, Kate Czubik, Kristi Heflin. Row 2: Krystal Catania, Sharon Glaze, Samantha Argue, DeDo Knobbe, Cori Wimmer, Michelle Wood. Row 3: Sarah Papp, Kelly Pero, Katie Floyd, Tina Coburn, Jessica Malls. Row 4: Amy Kaste, Ashley Suggs, Mia Kimble, Amy Wilson.



Vocalteens

Director: Roger Emig

Members: Row 1: Ralph Williams, Beth Elliott, Robin Childress, Matthew Rivera. Row 2: Matthew Cunningham, Tiffany Stochel, Tara Mayersky, Jennifer Bronowski, Kristen Cribari, Josh Gaboian. Row 3: Darnell Cole Jr., Melissa Loar, Tiffany Elzer, Terrie Maddox. Row 4: Sarah Liakos, Erik Price.

Wind Ensemble - Group 1

Director: Mary Clay

Members: Row 1: Valerie Plummer, Katie Smith, Melissa Maragos, Renee Ortega, Laura Horwith. Row 2: Veronica Ramirez, Abby Kochek, Michelle Lindahl, Samaria Thompson, Amy Kochek. Row 3: Aimee Ruder, Jennifer Okichich, Dawn Molchan, Shameka Ottman. Row 4: Zac Cook, Marion Hanley, Justin Gilmore.



Wind Ensemble - Group 2

Director: Mary Clay

Members: Row 1: Derek Crawford, Marisa Valdez, Carrie Nash, Katie Purnea, James Lutinen. Row 2: Jeff Roth, Camille Campos, Lisa Scheffer, Jackie Visuue, Kevin Kores, Ryan Petry. Row 3: Kyle VanWinkle, Mike Lamb, Jermece Williamson, Jimmy Jones Jr., John Padberg. Row 4: Sean Brown, Bret Sager, Dan Vadas, Darnell Cole Jr.



Wind Ensemble - Group 3

Director: Mary Clay

Members: Row 1: Tony Transfiguracion, Shannon Grimmer, Denise Prince, Eileen Peden, Carly Berdine, Matt Festa. Row 2: Jarrett Kelly, Nate Laeny, Terrance Campbell, Brandon Marcus, Justin Porter, Joey Crosby. Row 3: Kewin Mabon, Ryan Jezuit, Alan Azcona, Ryan Midkiff, Ed Villarreal, Jason Morris. Row 4: Angelo Anton, Bill Connelly, Jeremy Rinker, Tom Hancock, Brad Kamano, David Neville.



Adam Pierce and
D'Jhae Sickles keep
time to the music as
the Inspirational
Choir performs.

Director John
Bradford leads the
orchestra at the
annual Christmas
Concert.





Woodwinds on parade. The Band of Pirates performed at all home football games, as well as competing in marching contest and attending IU Band Day.



Choir members watch the director as they perform at the annual Christmas Concert.



Ihe violin section waits to come in at its cue. This was the second year for a Concert and a Symphonic Orchestra because of the growth in the program.



Band students demonstrate the sound they gained from hours of practice.

They call it choreography. Choir students dance to their song to give it an added dimension.



Leaving an impression

FACES

WAS IT THE WAY her eyes sparkled? Was it his goofy grin? Or was it how her nose wrinkled when she laughed? What was it that made that person memorable?

A PERSON'S FACE and the way he or she looked is always one of the first impressions perceived by others. Through hair and clothes, each student developed his or her own style, and all of the many faces helped prove what a unique place MHS is.

ALL OF THE students accentuated their physical differences through their own personalities and individual accessories.

SOME DECIDED that they needed to add spikes to their hair or to dye it a shocking fluorescent color. A new hairstyle always got others' attention.

AS FOR CLOTHES, many students picked out a whole new wardrobe, whether that involved a new pair of boggy jeans, flares, or cargos. Some shopped for bargains, while others stuck to the popular name brands, such as Fubu, Gap, and Abercrombie and Fitch.

UNDERCLASSMEN continued to have their pictures taken during registration and the actual school year to display their character and style.

FOR THE new seniors, they made an impression on others through their senior portraits. It was required that they have a formal picture taken for the yearbook, but most purchased other poses and pictures to share with friends and family.

—SPREAD BY TIFFANY STOCHEL AND JACOB CAMP

As Aunt Ethel in the fall production of "Harvey," Shannon Grimmer gives a dignified, yet humorous lecture on her opinions. Grimmer was also active in the band, as well as the Speech and Debate team during her high school years.

Clapping, cheering, shouting, screaming were all present within the immense crowd of students that faithfully attended each Pirate football game.



WHAT WOULD YOU
LIKE MOST TO BE
REMEMBERED FOR?



"I would like to be remembered for bringing out the best in people and trying to reach out and become friends with everyone."

- APRIL GRAVES, '03



"Either the three unsuccessful attempts at taking over the school or my brief 'What's Your Beef' skit."

- ROB PEREZ, '01



It's not always easy to find a happy face in the middle of the classroom, but it is accomplished with students in English teacher Courtney Hardin's class.



Put mixed emotions, faces, hair-styles, and fashion into one area, and there you have it - the jam-packed hallways during passing periods.



"I would like to be remembered for my outgoing personality."

- DANAH FRAZIER, '00

Andrew Kora stands in front of his works of art that are displayed in the art gallery before his mid-term graduation.



Objet d'art CREATING A NEW KIND OF ART

In his eyes, happiness was merely being content with who you were and "keeping good company." Andrew Kora tried to live life simply, and though he often spoke philosophically, he always had a joke that could put a smile on anyone's face.

Beside's working at Mikes Sporting Goods designing t-shirts, he said, "I try to spend as much time as I can with my friends." His friends described him as a funny guy who was laid back.

He's the type of guy who would have had fun doing almost anything. Outdoor sports were his favorites, but movies, music, and art were a big part of him. He has snowboarded for two years, and liked to mountain bike, camp, canoe, and water ski.

He also was a very talented artist and had a one man show in the art gallery before his mid-term graduation. He enjoyed all types of music, but his new favorites were house music and techno. Aside from the ordinary, Andrew used to swing dance, but as more people started doing it, he gradually gave it up.

After graduating mid-term, Kora planned to attend the American Academy of Art in Chicago. In the future, he dreams of living out west and "being on a sailboat with the people [he] loves."



Kora balances on his snowboard while posing for a picture at a ski resort.



Ana M. Adamo.
Justin Adams- Baseball 9;
Basketball 9,10, Choir 9,10,11,12; Football
9,10,12; Natural Helpers 10; Track 10.

Tracy Lynn Albee- Golf
9,10,11,12; Softball 9,10.
Kathy Alexandris.

Jacob Amundsen.
Danita Anderson- French Club
9,10,11,12; SADD 12; W.I.T.T. 12.

Jacob M. Argentia- Basketball
9,10,11,12; Basketball Captain 12;
Football 9,10. Angela Austin.

Fremel JaMar Backus- Football
9,10,11,12. Jamie Lynn
Bainbridge- Basketball 9,10,11;
Basketball Captain 10; German Club
9,10,11,12; German Club
Officer(President) 12; National Honor
Society 11,12; Natural Helpers
9,10,11,12; Softball 9,10,11,12; S.A.C. 12;
SADD 11,12; SADD Officer(V. President)
12; SSAC 12.

April Ann Balash- Choir 10,11;
Ade 12. Morris E. Bankston
Jr.- Football 10,11,12; Pirate Radio 10,
Track 9,10,11,12.



CLASS OF 2000



Clyde Barnes, Carly Jane Berdine- Band 9,10,11,12; Basketball 9,10, NHS 11,12; Softball 9,10,11,12; **Blythe Lynn Bertolo**- Cross Country 9,10; Q & S 11,12; Tennis 9,10,11; captain 12; Yearbook 12; Q & S 12. **Donald E. Bish**- Baseball 9; Football 9; Wrestling 9,10,11,12. **Paul Blagojevski**.



Richard J. Bobo- German Club 11,12, NHS 11,12; SADD 12; Student Government 9; Swimming 9; Tennis 9,10,11,12; Tennis Captain 12. **Ryan A. Bobowsky**- Band 9. **Jacinta Lynn Boger**- Soccer 9,10,11; SADD 9,10; Track 9,10; Yearbook 12. **Ebony D. Bond**- SPA 10; Key Club 12; Spell Bowl Team 12; W.I.T.T. 11. **Abby Brake**- Environmental Club 10; SADD 11,12; Swimming 9.



Philip John Brasovan, **Jennifer Bronowski**- Chor 9,10; Drama Club 10,11,12; Drama Club Officer 12; Fall Play 11; Revue 11,12; Show Choir 11,12; Spring Musical 10,11,12; SADD 10,11; Student Government 10; Thespians 11,12; Vocal Teens 11,12. **Jonathan Brown**- Chor 9,10; Teacher's Aide 11,12; Track 11; W.I.T.T. 11,12. **Nicole C. Brown**- Chor 9,10; Golf 9,10,11,12; Office Aide 10,12; SADD 11,12; Yearbook 12. **Kelly Elaine Buckner**- Fall Play 9; Spanish Club Officer & Student Government 9; Student Manager Sport(Football) 11,12; Swimming 9,10,11,12; Teacher's Aide 11,12; Powder Puff 9.



Cory Burkus- Tennis 9,10,11,12. **Julie Christine Burns**- Key Club 10,11,12; Teacher's Aide 12. **Mark D. Burress Jr.** **Ashley K. Cak**- Key Club 9,10; SADD 11; Student Manager Sport(Volleyball) 11,12; Tennis 9,10,11,12; Volleyball 9,10. **Jacob Marcus Camp**- Academic Decathlon Team 12; Football 9; German Club 9,10,11,12; German Club Officer 11,12; JETS 9,10,11,12; NHS 11,12; Q & S 12; Quiz Bowl Team 12; Science Olympiad 12; Super Quiz Team 12; Swimming 10; Yearbook 12; Science Club 11,12; Health Science Summer Camp(UN) 10.



Tom Casteel, **Clairann Marie Caton**- Drama Club 10, Natural Helpers 9,10,11; PNN 10; SADD 10,11. **Tanja Celeksi**- Soccer 10; Teacher's Aide 10,12; Powder Puff 9. **Christopher J. Chamberlain**- Football 9; Teacher's Aide 12; Auto Shop 11. **Robin Alexis**-

Children's Cheerleading 9,10; Chor 10,11,12; Drama Club 10,11,12; Drama Club Officer 11,12; Fall Play 9,10,11,12; Homecoming 9; Softball 12; Natural Helpers 10; Prom Committee 11; Prom Court 11; Revue 9,10,11,12; Show Choir 11,12; Spring Musical 9,10,11,12; Student Manager Sport(Soccer) 11,12; Thespians 9,10,11,12; Thespians Officer 12; Vocal Teens 11,12.



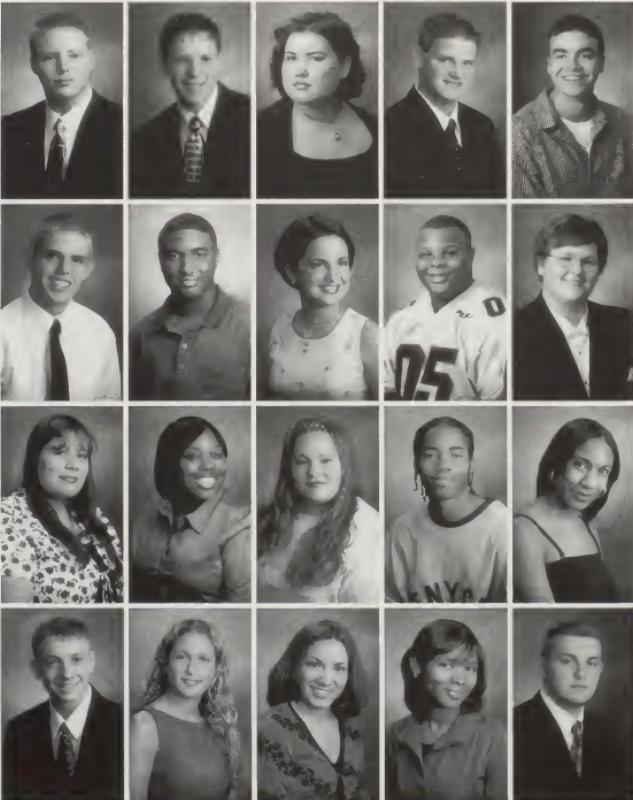
Demetrius J. Clark- Basketball 9; Football 11; Track 9,10,11,12. **Fawn Marie Clark**- Chor 9,10. **Jerrilyn Clark**- SPA 11. **Michael Cobb**- Football 9,10,11,12; Teacher's Aide 12; Track 11,12; W.I.T.T. 12. **Camille Coleman**.

CLASS OF 2000

Jake Rodriguez escapes from his opponent, for which he scores a point. He placed third at the state finals.



Jason L. Collins— Building Trades 12; Drama Club 10; Soccer 9; AutoShop 12. **William Connolly II**— Band 9,10,11,12; Football 12; Golf 9. **Rachel Mariko Cook**— Art Club 10,11; Art Club Officer 12. **Zachary Alan Cook**— Band 9,10,11,12; Golf 9,10,11,12; Golf Captain 12. **Tania 9,10,11,12.** **Steve Cooper**— Track 12; Wrestling 10,12.



Aaron T. Craft— Football 9,10,11,12; NHS 11,12; Student Government 12; Student Manager Sport(Basketball) 9,10; Track 10. **Derek Lamar Crawford**— Band 9,10,11,12; Track 12. **Kristen N. Cribari**— Chor 9,10,11,12; French Club 11,12; Natural Helpers 9,10; Revue 12; Show Chor 11,12. **Keith E. Crittenden Jr.**— Key Club 9,10,11,12; Student Manager Sport(Basketball) 10,11,12; Track 12; W.I.T.T. 11,12. **Joseph Walter Crosby**— Band 9,10,11,12.

Amanda Inez Cruz— Office Aide 11; Teacher's Aide 10,11,12. **Dana Dawn Gudger**— Band 9; FCA 12; French Club 10,11; Key Club 12; Quest Club 11; Spell Bowl Team 12; SADD 11,12; Student Government 12; W.I.T.T. 11,12; inspirational Choir 12. **Denise Ann Damion**— Chor 9,10,11,12; Key Club 10,11,12; Revue 12; Student Manager Sport(Football) 11,12; Teacher's Aide 10,12; Boy's Freshman Basketball Captain 11. **Lawrence Davis**, **Jolan J. Davis**— W.O.D— Environmental Club 12; French Club 10,11,12; French Club Officer 12; Key Club 12; Quest Club 11; Revue 10,11,12; Student Manager Sport(Football) 12; Student Trainer Sport(Basketball) 12; Track 10; W.I.T.T. 11,12; Officer 11,12; inspirational Choir 11; inspirational Choir Officer 12.

Adam Deek— Baseball 9,12; Diving 12; Tennis 10,12; Wrestling 9. **Lanneah Marie Delich**— Basketball 9,10,12; Office Aide, Softball 10; Volleyball 9,10,11,12; Volleyball Captain 12. **Amy Dergo**— SAC 10; Student Manager Sport(Wrestling) 10; Teacher's Aide 10,11,12; Track 9; Volleyball 10,11; **India Esme Diggins**— Chor 9; Quest Club 10,11,12; Student Trainer Sport(Football,Track,Basketball,Wrestling) 10,11,12; Teacher's Aide 10,11,12; W.I.T.T. 12. **Sasho B. Dimovski**— Football 9,11; Track 9,10.



The Homecoming Court gathers to show off their dresses.

Sarah Peters raises her hand to answer a question at a spell bowl competition.



Marisa Malave listens to music while she concentrates on her upcoming dives.



John Ditto- Teacher's Aide 10; Advanced Electronics 11
Tony Donnelle- Football 9,10,11,12; German Club 10,11,12; German Club Officer 12; Golf 11,12; JETS 11,12; NHS 11,12; Natural Helpers 9,10,11,12; Teacher's Aide 12; Wrestling 10; Peer Helper 12. Jennifer Doneksi- NHS 11,12; Soccer 9,10,11; Teacher's Aide 12. Kimberly Joan Drobic- Band 9,10,11,12; Drum Major 11,12; Environmental Club 10; Football 9; German Club 10; PNN 10; SADD 10,12. Jerry Duggins- Building Trades 11,12; Deodots 9.



Vesna Dukleski- Student Manager Sport Track 11,12. Ryan Dulla- Baseball 9,10,11,12; Baseball Captain 12; Basketball 9; Football 9,10,11,12; Football Captain 12; Natural Helpers 10,11,12; Revue 12; Track 12; Wrestling 11,12; Wrestling Captain 12. Ryan Durham- Basketball 9; W.I.T.T. 11,12; Peer Mediator 10,11,12. Dan Dyer- Baseball 9,10; Football 9,10,11,12; German Club 11; Revue 12. Teacher's Aide 11,12. Enika Lois Eckstrom- Band 9.



Nicole Michelle Eich- Flag Corps 10,11,12; German Club 9,10,11,12; PNN 10; Prom Committee 11; SADD 11,12; Swimming 9. Thomas Escort III- Fall Play 11,12; Orchestra 9,10,11,12; Pirate Radio 9; PNN 9; WMHS Productions 9. Mike Falk- Amanda Lynn Farley. Alaina Christine Fasel- Choir 9,10; Golf 9,10,11,12; Show Chor 11,12; Track 10.



Lisa Marie Easton- Cheerleading 9,10; Choir 9; Cross Country 11; Gymnastics 9,10,11,12; Pirate Radio 10; PNN 10; SADD 10; Teacher's Aide 10,12; Track 9,10; Key Club 12; Gymnastics 11,12. Adam Fedzik- Basketball 9,10,11,12; Basketball Captain 12; Football 9,10,11,12; French Club 9; Key Club 9,10; Natural Helpers - 9,10; Swimming 9. Mandy L. Ferjo. Anomi Samantha Fernando- Choir 9,10,12; Key Club 11,12; SAC 11; SADD 12.

These couples decided to rest their legs during the Valentine's Dance.

Inspirational choir members sing and clap at a local performance.



Laughing at her classmates in the stands, Janice Garcia takes a break from cheering at a football home game.



July Ann Fitzgerald- French Club 9,10. Tiffany Fizer- Choir 9,10,11,12; Drama Club 10,11,12; Fall Play 10, NHS 11,12; Revue 12; Show Choir 11,12; Spring Musical 11,12, Thespian 12. **Derik Michael Floyd**- Band 9,10,11, Class Officer 11,12; Cross Country 9,10,11,12; Cross Country Captain 10,11,12; JETS 12; NHS 11,12; Office Aide 12; SADD 10,12; Student Government 9,10,11,12; Track 9,10

Melissa E. Fluker- NHS 11,12; Student Manager Football 11,12; Teacher's Aide 12; Track 9,10,11,12; Marine Biology 11. **Melissa Lynn Fogarty**.



Kelvena T. Ford- SADD 12; W.I.T.T. 12; Inspirational Choir 12. **Joseph Francis**- Basketball 9,10; Pirate Radio 10,12; PHN 10; Tennis 9,10,11,12. **Russ Francis**- NHS 10,11; Westing 10,11. **Andrea J. Franz**- Band 9,10,11,12; German Club 9,10,12; Student Trainer/Sportif/Sports 9,10,11,12; Teacher's Aide 9,11,12. **Danah N. Frazier**- Choir 9; Quest Club 9,10,11; Revue 10; SADD 9, Teacher's Aide 11,12; W.I.T.T. 11,12; Inspirational Choir 11,12, Inspirational Choir Officer 11,12



Josh Goboyan- Baseball 9; Choir 9,10,11,12; Cross Country 10; Drama Club 10,11,12; Drama Club Officer 11,12; FCA 11,12; Football 9; French Club 12; Natural Helpers 9,10; PHN 10,12; Prom Committee 11; Prom Court 11; Revue 10,11,12; Show Choir 9,10,11,12; Speech Team 12; Spring Musical 10,11,12; Thespian 10,11,12; Vocal Team 10,11,12. **Kelly Marie Goboyan**- Art Club 9; Band 9; CMC 9; French Club 9; HERO 12; Office Aide 9,10,11; Softball 9; SADD 9,10,12; Swimming 9; Teacher's Aide 9,10,11. **Antoine Guiteres**- Choir 9,10,11,12; Football 9,10,11,12; Football Captain 12; Student Government 10,12; Inspirational Choir 11,12. **Keenan Gallagher**, **Janice Garcia**- Cheerleading 9,10,11,12; Choir 9; Homecoming Court(Basketball) 9,10; Teacher's Aide 12.



Richard Michael Garcia- Building Trades 12. **Kellie M. Gasperini**- Band 9,10,11,12; Drama Club 11; SADD 10; Teacher's Aide 12; Pep Band 9,10,11,12; Marching Band 9,10,11,12. **Nicholas P. Gill**. **Candice Marie Gillespie**- PHA 11,12; PHA Officer 11; HERO 11,12; Powder Puff 9. **Justin Gilmore**- Band 9,10,11,12; Football 9; NHS 11,12; Marching Band 10,11,12; Pep Band 10,11,12.



CLASS OF 2000

Nick Pörczeczek keeps his knees and socks high as he's determined to finish the race.



SADD members pose for a picture at the Halloween Fun Night. This was the first year for the event.



Andrew Edward Giner- Football 9; German Club 9,10; Teacher's Aide 12. Samantha Golden.

Heather Melissa Gooch- Art Club 9,10,11,12; NHS 11,12. Aleksandar Gorski- Academic Decathlon Team 11,12; Art Club 12; Drama Club 11,12; Fall Play 11,12; French club 9,10,11,12; French Club Officer 12; JETS 11,12; Key Club 10,11,12; NHS 11,12; NHS Officer 12; Quiz Bowl Team 11,12; SADD 11,12; Thespians 12; Academic Super Bowl 11,12. Joe Gorski.



Clay Graham- track 9; Wrestling 9.

Dong Graves- Jessica Lee Gray- Cheerleading 9,10,11,12; Chor 9,10,11; French Club 9,10,11,12; PHN 10; Revue 10,11; Show Chor 11; Track 9,10,11,12; Liz Greco- Natural Helpers 9; Socce 9,10,11,12; Soccer Captain 12. Maryanne Green- German Club 9; Orchestra 9,10,11,12; Swimming 9,10,11,12; Swimming Captain 12.



Kathy Lynn Gregory- Class Officer 12; Chor 9,10; Football Manager 11,12; HERO 12; PHN 10; Student Manager (Sports/Football & Wrestling) 11,12; Teacher's Aide 10,11; Wrestling 12. Ryan Gregory- Shannon M.

Grinner- Band 9,10,11,12; Drama Club 9,10,11,12; Fall Play 12; Jazz Impact 12; PHN 9; Revue 10,11,12; Speech Team 10,11,12; Spring Musical 9; Teacher's Aide 12; Thespians 11,12; WMHS Productions 9; Jazz Impressions 11; Pep Band 9,10,11,12; Marching Band 9,10,11,12. Leticia Angelic Guardiola- FCA 9,10,12; Quest Club 9; SADD 9,10,11,12; Teacher's Aide 12. Ramon E. Guardiola Jr.



Randi Lynn Guernsey- Softball 9,10,11; Volleyball 10,11; Yearbook 12. Adriane Marie

Givzimian- FCA 9,10,12; Office Aide 12; SADD 9,10,11,12; SADD Officer 9,10; Track 9; Matthew Ryan Hall- Office Aide 10. Nickole Noel Hall- Cheerleading 9; Chor 9; Student Government 9; Swimming 9. Towanda Christine Hammonds- Natural Helpers 10; Spell Bowl Team 12; SADD 11; Yearbook 11,12

CLASS OF 2000

Cieely Camille Harris- Basketball 9,10,12; Basketball

Captain 9,10; PNN 12; Qued Club 12; Revue 12; Spell Bowl

Team 1,2; Track 12; WMHS Productions 12; Yearbook 12; Peer

Helper 12; **Conor Ross Harrison, Colleen E.**

Hurstad- Cross County 11,12; Teacher's Ade 11,12; Track

10,11,12 **Mary Grace Hardline**- Art Club 10,11,12;

Art Club Officer 11,12; Drama Club 12; Teacher's Ade 12

Robert Hemphill- Cross County 9,10,11,12; Track 10,

11,12 **Mary Grace Hardline**- Art Club 10,11,12;

Art Club Officer 11,12; Drama Club 12; Teacher's Ade 12

Robert Hemphill- Cross County 9,10,11,12; Track 10,



Terri Claire Hoffman- Choir 9,10,11; Drama Club 10;

Fall Play 10; Natural Helpers 11,12; Spanish Club 9; Spring

Musical 10; Thompsons 9,10 **Evan Russell Hoglund**-

Orchestra 9,10,11,12; Tennis 9,10,11,12; Carol N. Holtz-

NHS 11,12; Softball 9,10,11,12; Volleyball 9,10,11,12 **Julie**

Hoover- Basketball 9; JETS 11,12; NHS 11,12; Quiz Bowl

Team 12; Softball 9,10,11,12; SADD 12; **Keith R.**

Hosler- Building Trades 11,12; Wrestling 9,



Kristopher D. Howard

Erik Claude Huff, Jeremiah Hulbert- Soccer

9,10,11,12; Soccer Captain 10 **Lamar Hunter**-

Basketball 9 **Joe Jackson**- Football 9; HERO 12



Meagan Jackson- Flag Corps 10; Key Club 9

Terrel Anthony Jacob- Baseball 9,10; Basketball

9,10; Football 9,10; Natural Helpers 12; **Tiffany**

Jenkins- Key Club 9,10,11; Orchestra 9,10,11,12

Ryan Jezuit- Bond 9,10,11,12; Jazz Impact 10,11,12;

Revue 10; Swimming 9; Drumline 11,12; Drumline Section

Leader 10,11,12 **William Johnson**- Soccer

9,10,11,12; Soccer Captain 12; Swimming 11,12; Teacher's

Ade 12



Jessy Johnston- German Club 9,10 **Melissa**

Johnston- Choir 9; NHS 11,12; Quiz Bowl Team 11,12; SADD

10,11,12; Student Government 9,10,11,12; Powder Puff 9

Ebony Jones, Jimmy Jones Jr.- Bond 9,10,11,12

Malakaius Joyner- Bond 9,10; Cross County 10,12;

Decade 10; FCA 12; Flag Corps 10; French Club 10,12; Key

Club 10,12; NHS 11,12; Natural Helpers 10,12; Office Ade 12;

SADD 10; Track 9,10; WJTT 12; Rotary Foreign Exchange

Student[Brazil] 11



Sarah Ann Jurisic- Bond 9,10,11,12; PNN 11,12; Tennis

9,10,11,12; Pep Bond 9,10,11,12; Marching Bond 9,10,11,12

Brenda A. Kamano- Bond 9,10,11,12; Natural Helper

9,10,11,12; Pep Bond 9,10,11,12; Marching Bond 9,10,11,12

Heather Marie Karwowski- HERO 11,12; Office Ade

11 **Raymond H. Kellum**- Class Officer 9,10,11,12;

CPC 12; Cross County 9,10,11,12; Cross Country Captain 12;

Drama Club 11,12; Drama Club Officer 12; NHS 11,12; NHS

Officer 11,12; Peer Leader 11,12; Peer Leader 10,12;

Orchestra 9,10,11; Pepette Radio 10; PNN 10; Prom Committee

11; Revue 12; Spring Musical 11,12; SAC 10,11,12; SADD 10,11;

Student Government 9,10,11,12; Student Government Officer

10,11,12; Track 9,10; WSC Executive Committee 11,12; MUSC

Advisory Board 11,12; **Daniel Kelati**- Soccer 12;

Teacher's Ade 10,12; Wrestling 12





Sarah Kelly- Art Club 12;
Environmental Club 10,11,12; Big Corps
10,11,12; German Club 9; **Victor
Kendera**- FCA 10,12.



Aaron Kessler- Band 9,10,11; NHS
11,12; Quiz Bowl Team 12; Spanish Club
Officer 10; SADD 9,10,11,12; Student
Government 9,10,11,12; Super Quiz
Team 11,12; Wrestling 11,12.
Danielle Kesling.



Robert W. Kleinaman-
Football 9,10,11,12; Wrestling 9,10,11,12
Ron Klemoff.



Jared Charles Kloth- Teacher's
Aide 9,10,11. **Abigail Marie
Koehck**- Band 9,10,11,12; NHS 11,12;
Marching Band 9,10,11,12.



Kira Kay Kolschefski- Band
9,10,11; FCA 10,11,12; German Club 9;
NHS 11,12; SADD 10. **Jessica Koon**-
Softball 12.



Andrew Kora- Art Club 9,10,11,12;
Art Club Officer 11,12; CWC 12; NHS
11,12; Pirate Radio 9; PNIN 9.
Benjamin Allen Kostelnik-
Basketball 9; Natural Helpers 9; SADD 12

Kristen Sengraves sticks out her tongue to show off her exotic piercing. She also has many ear piercings along her ears.



Different SHE'S BEING HER OWN PERSON

Have you been fortunate enough to meet Kristen Jean Sengraves? Anybody who knew her could not resist noticing how much fun, yet how different she was. Kristen stood out from the average high school student. She was highly respected by her friends, but she did not care what people thought about her. Her physical appearance was not important to her; however, being comfortable was. She explained her shaved head, "when something is in my way, I move it."

Kristen had many talents and hobbies. Her most recognized talent was standing on her head. Kristen's favorite pastime was playing in the mud. Other things Kristen enjoyed included listening to classic rock and eating cheese pizza washed down with a Dr. Pepper. Her most embarrassing moment was at Steak-n-Shake's drive-thru. As her boyfriend leaned over to give her a kiss, he took his foot off the brake pedal and rear-ended the car in front of them.

The most interesting classes she took in her high school career included auto shop and graphic arts. Kristen plans to be an auto mechanic because she was really interested in working on cars. She was unsure whether she was attending college. Kristen just wanted to hurry up and finish high school.



Kristen enjoys
designing things in
graphic arts.

CLASS OF 2000

Morgan Palmer and Dana Draska work together on the rocket, which is their art project.



A senior drum major leads the band in its halftime performance.



Nikolaj L. Kustrin- *Revue* 11; *Dale Kras*, *Efrinia Krikos*, *Lindsey Renée Krummeck*, *Cheerleading* 11; *Choir* 9; *French Club* 9,10,11,12; *Golf* 9; *NHS* 11,12; *PNN* 10; *Prom Committee* 11; *Soccer* 10,11,12; *Teacher's Aide* 10,11,12; *Track* 9,10,11, captain 12; *Yearbook* 12; *Q & S* 12. Jim Kulick.



Neil F. Kuntz- *Wrestling* 9,10,11,12; *Christina Labes*- *NHS* 11,12; *Natural Helpers* 10; *SADD* 11,12; *Nate Lacy*- *Bond* 9,10,11; *Jazz Impact* 11; *NHS* 11; *Revue* 9,10,11,12; *Track* 10,11; *Laura Lynne Laur*- *Bond* 9,10,11,12; *Environmental Club* 9,10,11,12.

Jonathan Lenz- *FCA* 10,11; *Football* 9,10

Sarah Marie Liakos- *Choir* 9,10,11,12; *Drama Club* 10,11,12; *French Club* 9,10,11,12; *NHS* 11,12, *Office Aide* 12; *PNN* 10; *Pom-poms* 9,10; *Revue* 11,12; *Show Choir* 11,12; *Spring Musical* 10,11; *Student Government* 9; *Teacher's Aide* 12; *Thespians* 11,12; *Vocal Tones* 11,12. Michelle Lindahl- *Band* 9,10,11,12; *Color Guard* 11,12; *Marching Band* 9,10,11,12; *Pep Band* 9,10,11,12; *Natalie N. Lindsey*- *Cross Country* 12; *Cheer* 9,10,11,12; *Student Manager* *Sport/Basketball* 10,11; *Teacher's Aide* 12; *Track* 10. Melissa Lour, Randy Diere Lockett- *Band* 9,10,11; *PNN* 11



The girl's swim team huddles up on Senior Night to celebrate their last victory.



Kristen Cribari and Justin Gaboian sing together at the Christmas Concert.



An art student works on a project for their Homecoming door entry. Doors were judged after school.



Mario Lopez- Plate Radio 10,11,12; WMHS Productions 10,11; **Kristian Lorick**- Choir 9,10; Plate Radio 10,11,12; Student Government 9; WMHS Productions 10,11,12; **Gary W. Ludwig**- Math Liedtke- Band 9,10,11,12; Chor 9,10,11; Drama Club 9; Orchestra 12; Soccer 9,10,11; Spanish Club 12; Student Government 11; **James Lutinen**- Band 9,10,11,12; Jazz Impact 11; Orchestra 11,12.

Brenton James Mac Donald- Football 9,10,11,12; Office Aide 10,12; Teacher's Aide 11,12; **Nicholas Madrid**- Jonathan Magallan; **Vincent Magee**- Basketball 9,10,11; Football 9,10,11,12; Football Captain 12; Teacher's Aide 10,12; Track 9; **Richard Bradford Maj**- Orchestra 9,10,11,12.

Cheryl Lynn Major- Art Club 12; Chor 9,10,11; Drama Club 9,10,11,12; Fall Play 9,10,11,12; Plate Radio 11,12; NHS 11,12; Student Government 11; Show Chor 10,11; Spring Musical 9,11,12; Teachers Aide 10,11; Thespians 10,11,12; WMHS Productions 11,12; WMHS Productions Producer 12.

Joe Makarowski- Soccer 9,10,11; **Marisa Renee Malak**- Chor 9,10,11,12; Diving Captain 11,12; NHS 11,12; Student Government 9; Student Trainer[Football] 10,11,12; Teacher's Aide 10,11; Track 9; **Jessica Anne Malis**- Band 9; Chor 9,10,11,12; CMC 11; Revue 12; Student Government 10,11,12; Swimming 10; Ambassador 9; **Malissa Marunge**- Band 9,10,11,12; Drum Major 11,12; Orchestra 11,12.

Stephen Mareitch- Football 9,10,11; **Kristina Marunski**- SAOD 9,12; **Janice Elaine Marler**- Basketball 9,10,11,12; Football Captain 11,12; German Club 10; NHS 11,12; Student Government 9,10,11,12; Teacher's Aide 10,11,12; Volleyball 9; **Kendell Roneil Martin-Dias**- Debate 9,10; Football 9,10,11; Spanish Club 9,10,11,12; Teacher's Aide 12; Track 10,11,12; WLT 9,10,11,12; **Inspirational Chor** 11,12; **Inspirational Chor Officer/President** 11,12; **Natalie Jean Martin**- Basketball 9,10; Homecoming Court(Basketball) 11; Softball 9,10,11,12.

Kurt Roberts focuses on her next move in her Beam routine.



RBeth Matlock chips a shot close to the green in her effort to par the hole.

Ralph Williams and Rob Flemphill do a little gambling in the spring play.



Megan Mashburn, Clusity L.M., Marion-Bond 9,10; German Club 10; Teacher's Aide 12; Marching Band 9,10; After School Volunteer 12. **L**aura Mason,

Bethany Ann Matlock- Golf 9,10,11,12; Orchestra 9,10,11,12; Teachers Aide 12; Track 9. **J**ohn Matusik- Baseball 9,10,11,12; Soccer 9,10,11,12; Soccer Captain 12.



Roger Maul- Building Trades 11,12; PNA 9,10.

CRFH 9,10,11,12. **T**ara Elaine Mayersky- Choir 9,10,11,12; Drama Club 9; Fall Play 9; Show Choir 11,12; Student Manager Sport(Soccer) 11,12; Teacher's Aide 10; Track 9,10,11,12; Vocal Teens 12. **K**evin Mayo- Football 10,

SAC 11,12. **J**on McCarty- Orchestra 9,10,11,12.

Nicole Elizabeth McCarty- Natural Helpers 11,12;

SADD 9,10,11,12; Teacher's Aide 10,12.

Stephanie McCarty- Key Club 10

Mike McCord- Erin Leanne McGee- Bond 9; SADD 10,11,12; SADD Officer(V.President) 12; Teacher's Aide 12; Track 9,10. **L**aToya McGee- Basketball 9; Debate 10; Flag Corps 10,11; French Club 10,11; French Club Officer 12, Key Club 10,11; Newspaper 12; Pirate Radio 9; PNN 9; Quest Club 9; Speech Team 10; SADD 11; Teacher's Aide 11,12; Track 9,10,11,12. **B**rett McIndoo- Baseball 9.

Robyn McIndoo- Environmental Club 10; German Club 10; Fom-poms 9,10. **J**eana McLaughlin,

Mahogany Krystal Meek- Academic Decathlon Team 12; Bond 9; PNA 9; French Club 10,11,12; NHS 11,12; SADD 12; Track 9,10,12; W.I.T. 11,12. **J**osh Mehay- Class Officer 11; Football 9,10,11,12; PNN 10; Wrestling 9,10,11,12; Wrestling Captain 11,12. **H**ector M. Mendez- Class Officer 12; Choir 9,10; Football 9; Show Choir 9,10, Soccer 10,11,12; SAC 11,12; Track 9,10,11,12.

CLASS OF 2000



Adam Pierce and Jermeece Williamson debate over which picture package to get at the Turnabout dance.



Jacob Camp files the photographs at Giola's studio during job-shadowing.



Kristin M. Methfessel - Choir 9,10,11,12; Fall Play 10; French Club 9,10; Homecoming Court/Basketball 9,11; Natural Helpers 9; PNN 9,10; Pom-poms 9,10,11,12; Pom-poms Captain 12; Show Choir 11,12; Track 10; Yearbook 10. **David Mersch** - Drama Club 11,12; FCCA 9,10,11,12; Key Club 11; Newspaper Staff 9,10; Peer Helper 9,10,11; PNA 9,10,11,12; PNA 10; Spring Musical 9,10,11,12; Spring Musical 10; Spring Musical 12; WMHS Productions 9,10,11,12; WMHS Productions Captain 10,11,12. **David Metcalf**, Tina Michael - Band 9,10,11,12; Cheerleading 10,11,12; Drama Club 10,11,12; Fall Play 10,11; NHS 11,12; Spring Musical 11,12; SADD 11,12; Student Manager(Football) 9,10; Student Manager(Basketball) 9,10; Thespians 11,12. **Mark Anthony Milak** - Building Trades 12; Golf 10.



Michael Miljabe - Building Trades 12. **Jeff A. Miller** - Building Trades 12; Orchestra 9,10,11,12; NHS Officer 10,11; NHS 11,12; Peer Helper 12. **Jeff S. Miller** - Class Officer 10,11; NHS 11,12; NHS Officer 12; Natural Helpers 9,10,11,12; Orchestra 9,10,11,12; Quiz Team 11,12; Soccer 9,10,11,12; Spanish Club 10; SAC 9,10,11,12; Student Council 9,10,11,12; Super Club Team 9,10,11,12; Peer Mediator 11,12. **Richard Miller**, **Denise Miranda** - Key Club 11; Natural Helpers 12; Revue 12; Softball 11,12; Peer Helper 12.



Heather N. Morgan - Choir 9,10; Natural Helpers 9,10,11; Soccer 9,10,11; Softball 9,10. **George Morris**, **Jason Morris** - Band 9,10,11,12; Football 9,10,11. **Beth C. Mullenix** - Chor 9,10. **Amy Lynn Mulvey** - FEA 11,12; Q & S 11; Teachers Aide 12; Yearbook 11,12.



Lindsey Mysliwiec - Chor 9; Environmental Club 10; Pom-poms 9,10,11,12; Pom-poms Captain 12; Softball 9,10; Teacher's Aide 10,12. **Carrie Lynn Nash** - Band 9,10,11,12; Jazz Impact 11,12; Orchestra 11,12; Marching Band 9,10,11,12; Pep Band 9,10,11,12; Solo and Ensemble 11,12; Concert Band 9; Symphonic Band 10; Wind Ensemble 11,12; Section Leader 12. **Melissa Nattywa** - Environmental Club 11, FEA 12; FCCA 11,12; Gymnastics 9; Swimming 12; Track 10; Wrestling 12. **Eric M. Navarro** - Football 9,10; Wrestling 9,10,11,12; Wrestling Captain 12. **Christine Nawrotzki** - French Club 10,11,12; Plate Radio 10; PNN 10.

Ryan Gregory is known for his crazy hair do. He said he saw it in magazine and liked it, so he had his aunt do it for him.



Playing bass WITH PHAT AGGRESSION

MAKING MUSIC
WITH PHAT AGGRESSION

Have you heard of the band Phat Aggression? If so, you've probably heard of Ryan Gregory. Ryan played the bass guitar in his band. Phat Aggression practiced whenever it could, usually anywhere from one to three times a week. The practices were usually three hours at a time from six to nine.

In his spare time, Ryan usually was at his friends' houses, practicing with his band, or working at Wiseway doing stock. He explained, "I just do whatever depending on the weather."

He used to play hockey, but he didn't have time for it any more. Ryan listened to a variety of music and liked to go to concerts. Rage Against the Machine and Slipknot were his favorites.

Ryan's favorite class at MHS was graphic arts. However, his plans for the future were undecided. He knew he wanted to work and possibly go to a college around here. He added, "Later in life, I want to live somewhere where there is no snow, but I will probably be just another person around here."

Ryan was known to his friends as being sarcastic and laid back. All of his friends considered him to be really unique. He said, "I don't try to be like other people; I try to be myself."

A camera shy Ryan Gregory hates to have his picture taken.



Allison Nerf NHS 11,12; Office Aide 11,12; Pirate Radio 10,11; PNIN 10; Prom Committee 11; SADD 10,11,12; Yearbook 12. **Chassity Monique Newell** Band 9,10; Debate 10; Frog Corps 9; Speech Team; Track 9,10.



Leslie A. Newell Band 9,10,11; German Club 9,10,11; Gymnastics 9,10; SADD 10,11,12; Volleyball 9,10,11,12; Volleyball Captain 11,12. **Jon Nordyke**



Sam Nuzzo Baseball 10,11,12; Baseball Captain 12; Football 10
Juli M. O'Brien Basketball 9,10,11,12; Softball 9,10; Volleyball 9,10,11,12; Volleyball Captain 12



Jeff O'Keefe Baseball 9,10,11,12; Baseball Captain 12; Football 9,10
Tanya Obergkovi NHS 11,12; NHS Officer 12; SAC 11,12; Student Government 9; Powder Puff 9.



Lawrence Obregon Chair 9,10; Debate 12; Wrestling 9,10,11,12; Wrestling Captain 11,12. **Phillip Ohi**



Adenike Oloyebo HERO 12; Debate 11; WLT, 11; Industrial Choir 12. **Greg Ostrowski** 11; Orchestra 9; Pirate Radio 9,10,11,12; PNIN 9,10,11,12; Teacher's Aide 10,11,12; WMHS Productions 9,10,11,12; SVA Leadership Awards Conference 12.



CLASS OF 2000



Shameka Ortmann- Band 9,10,11,12; NHS 11,12; Spanish Club 11; SADD 10,11,12; W.I.T.T. 11,12; Melanie Natisha Page- BPA 11,12; Chor 9,10,12; Office Aide 12; Revue 12; Speech Team 12; SADD 12; Track 9,12; W.I.T.T. 12; Voleyleters 12. Morgan Palmateer- Art Club 9,10,11,12; Drama Club 11,12; Fall Play 12; German Club 9; Soccer 11; Spring Musical 12; Swimming 9; Thespians 12; Jon Panozco- Office Aide 11; Teacher's Aide 11,12; Maria Papamihalakis- Soccer 9,10,11.



Abbie M. Pardohn, Tanika M. Parker- Diving 10; HERO 12; Courtney Nicole Parsons- Class Officer 9,10; Fall Play 9; FEA 12; Homecoming Court/Football 12; Natural Helpers 11; NHS 11,12; Revue 11; Prom Committee 11; SADD 11,12; SADD 12; Student Government 9,10,11,12; Student Government Officer 11,12; Track 9,10; Peer Mediator 10,11. Michael Passalacqua- Chor 9,10,12; CWF 12; Newspaper 12; Show Chor 10,12; Teacher's Aide 11,12; Vocal Team 10,12; Keynn B. Peacock- Basketball 9,10,11,12; Basketball Captain 12; Chor 9; Office Aide 12; SADD 11; Student Government 9; Teacher's Aide 11; Track 9.



Diana Pejoski- Teacher's Aide 12; Deanna Perez- Chor 9,10; Teacher's Aide 11; Johnathan Edward Lee Perkins- Band 9; PNN 11,12; WMHS Productions 12; Lucas Perkins- Orchestra 9,10,11,12; Sarah D. Peters- Academic Decathlon Team 10,11; Chor 9,10; FCA 11,12; JETS 11,12; Key Club 9,10,11,12; Key Club Officer 11,12; NHS 11,12; Plate Radio 10,11; Quiz Bowl Team 11,12; Science Olympiad 9; Spell Bowl Team 9,10,11,12; Swimming 9,10; WMHS Productions 10,11; Superbowl 9,10,12; Powder Puff 9.



Shannon Peterson- FCA 11; French Club 12; NHS 11; Plate Radio 10,11; PNN 10,11; Academic Super Bowl 11,12; Academic Super Bowl Captain 11,12; Library Aide 10; Loretta Petrovich- Flag Corps 10,11; NHS 11,12; Orchestra 9,10,11,12; Ryan Petty- Band 9,10,11,12; Cheerleading 10,11,12; Golf 10,11; Adam Pierre- Chor 12; Key Club 12; Newspaper 12; Office Aide 12; Plate Radio 12; Revue 12; Track 10; W.I.T.T. 12; Randi Pigg.



Jessica Suzanne Plasencia- Art Club 12; Softball 11; Amanda Lorene Plummer, Valerie Lynn Plummer- Band 9,10,11,12; Flag Corps 9,10,11,12; Teacher's Aide 12; Senior Representative For Colorguard 12; John Poling- Baseball 12; Orchestra 9,10,11; Track 10,11; Justin Porter- Band 9,10,11,12; Jazz Impact 11; Revue 11.



Maria R. Porter- Key Club 10; Teacher's Aide 12; Nicholas A. Porzucek- Cross Country 9,10,11,12; Cross Country Captain 12; SADD 12; Teacher's Aide 10; Track 10; Wrestling 10; Peer Mediator 10,11,12; Camille Nicole Powell- Chor 9,10; HERO 12; Guest Club 10,11,12; W.I.T.T. 11,12; W.I.T.T. Officer/President 11; Inspirational Chor 11; Denise Marie Prince- Band 9,10,11,12; French Club 12; NHS 11,12; Melissa A. Pritt- Chor 9,10.

CLASS OF 2000

The
Show
Choir
performs
a Christ-
mas
carol
at the
Christ-
mas
Concert.

Evan Hogland gets down to
disco music at the Valentine's
Dance.



Kathryn Punmea- Flag Corps 10, 11; Flags Captain 12; Jazz Impact 11, 12; NHS 11, 12; SADD 11; Swimming 11, 12. **Timothy Radford**- Drama Club 9, 10, 11; Fall Play 9, 10; Pirate Radio 9, 10, 11, 12; PHIN 9, 10, 11, 12; Spanish Club 11; Spring Musical 9, 10; Teacher's Aide 11; WMHS Productions 9, 10, 11, 12; WMHS Productions 12.

Suzanne Rudceski- French Club 9, 10, 11, 12; Student Government 9. **Andrea Maria Recio**- Office Aide 11; Teacher's Aide 10. **Israel Revio**, 11; Teacher's Aide 10.



Jared H. Reed- Cross Country 12; Diving 12; Environmental Club 11, 12; Vocal Teens 11, 12; WMHS Productions 12; Inspirational Choir 12. **Krystal L. Renn**, **Linda R. Reyna**, **Brenda Riley**- Band 9; Diving 10; NHS 11, 12; Lifeguard 12. **Jeremy W. Rinker**- Band 9, 10, 11, 12; Basketball 9; Tennis 11, 12; Teacher's Aide 9, 10, 11, 12.



Michele Ristovski- NHS 11, 12; Soccer 10. **Matthew Anthony Rivera**- Choir 10, 11, 12; Drama Club 10, 11, 12; Fall Play 11, 12; FCA 9, 10; Revue 11, 12; Show Choir 11, 12; Spanish Club 10, 11, 12; Spring Musical 10, 11, 12; Teacher's Aide 11; Thespians 11, 12; Vocal Teens 11, 12. **James R. Rourmes**- Band 9, 10, 11, 12; NHS 11, 12; Soccer 9, 10, 11, 12. **David Christopher Robbins**- Band 9, 10, 11, 12; Basketball 9, 10; Cross Country 11; German club 9, 12; Jazz Impact 11, 12; Student Manager Sport/Basketball 10; Track 12; CAP 9, 10, 11, 12; Flying V 10, 11, 12. **Kimberly Renee Roberts**- Drama Club 11, 12; Fall Play 11; French Club 10, 11, 12; Gymnastics 9, 10, 11, 12; Soccer 9, 10, 11, 12; Soccer Captain 11, 12; Softball 9, 10; Spring Musical 11, 12; SADD 9; Gymnastics Captain 12.



Shenley Marie Roberts- Drama Club 11, 12; FCA 11; French Club 10, 11, 12; Gymnastics 9, 10, 11, 12; Gymnastics Captain 12; NHS 11, 12; PHIN 10; Soccer 9, 10, 11, 12; Soccer Captain 11, 12; Softball 9, 10; Spring Musical 11, 12; SADD 10; Teacher's Aide 12; Thespians 11, 12. **Tiffany Roberts**, **Jeremy L. Robertson**- Basketball 9, 10; German Club 9, 10, 11, 12; NHS 11, 12. **Natasha Robinson**- Choir 9, 10; Drama Club 9, 10; Revue 12. **Brian Rodriguez**,





A group of roudy fans point at an exciting play at a football game.

The senior poms get together to dance at their last football half-time show.



Melissa Loar and Darnell Cole embrace each other during their Christmas Concert.



Jacob A. Rodriguez- Baseball 9,10,11,12; Football 11,12; Guest Club 11; Wrestling 9,10,11,12; Wrestling Captain 11,12
Desiree Ann Roman- FCA 9; Office Aide 12; Spanish Club 12; SADD 9,10,11,12; Student Manager SportTrack & Football 10,11,12; Teacher's Aide 11,12; I.M.A.G.E. 9; Powder Puff 9; Track Manager 10
Norma Evette Roman- HERO 12; SADD 11
Christopher Romo- Elizabeth Marie Rosaves- Key Club 9; Orchestra 9,10.



Kristianne Roister- Fall Play 9,11 Lance Roy
Jason Rushing- Building Trades 12; Teacher's Aide 11,12
Steve Salas Rick Sandilla- Choir 12; Football 9,10,11,12; Teacher's Aide 11,12



Kevin Santelik- Choir 9; Cross Country 9,10,11,12; Cross Country Captain 12; Fall Play 10; Show Choir 10,11; Spring Musical 10; Swimming 9, Justin J. Santelik.

Steven Sivka- Art Club 9,10,11,12; Cheerleading 10; Debate 9; FCLCA 12; Key Club 9,10,11,12; Key Club Officer 9,10,11,12; Guest Club 11,12; SAC 9,10,11,12; SADD 10,12; Student Government 9,10,11,12; Student Government 9,10,11,12; Student Government Officer 9,10,11,12; Swimming 9; Teacher's Aide 9,10,11,12 Lisa Kathleen Scheffer- Band 9,10,11,12; Drama Club 10,11; FCA 10,11; Spring Musical 10,11; Student Manager Softball(Boys) 9,10,11,12; Thespian 10,11; Freshman Basketball(Boys) 9,10,11,12; Pep Band 9,10,11,12 Chris Schlesinger.



Jeff Schouten, Brandy Schultz, Kelissa Scott- Key Club 12 Kristen Seagraves, Ann Marie Selby- Art Club 12; Key Club 11,12

Seven Vassanellis and Vanessa Valle sell tickets at the Halloween Fun Fair.

Ryan Lawrence takes a break on a step to cram before a test.



Bill Connelly concentrates on playing the symbols at a band concert.



Joshua Sherron- Office Aide 11, Shanna Nicole

Shipka, Sandra Skratsky- Environmental Club

9.10.11.12; French Club 9.10.11; NHS 11.12; Orchestra 9.10;

Pom-pone 9.10.11.12; Spring Musical 11.12; Tennis 9.10.11;

April Lynn Skurt- Cross Country 11.12; Cross Country

Captain 12; German Club 9.10.11.12; Track 9.10.11;

captain 12; Claire Marie Slikas- Orchestra

9.10.11.12; SADD 11; Student Government 10; Swimming

9.10.11; Swimming Captain 11.



Brandi Nicole Smith, Dennis Smith- Football

9.10.11; Wrestling 9.10.12; Katherine Smith- Bond

9.10.11.12; Pug Corps 10.11.12; Pug Corps Captain 12;

Gymnastics 9.10.11.12; Office Aide 12; Marvin Smith-

Basketball 9.10.11; Baseball Captain 12; Prom Court 11;

Tifneyn Carol Smith- Key Club 10.11.12; Key Club

Officer 11.12.



Jacob Snover, Amber Lacie Solomon- Key Club 9.10.11.12; Key Club Officer 11; Puppeteer 12;

Vanessa Lee Sonaty- French Club 9.10; SADD 10;

Student Government 9.10.11; Student Trainer/Sports/Mall

9.10.11.12; Andreas Spanos, Carolyn Marie

Sprague- Choir 9.10.11.12; French Club 9.10.11; NHS

11.12; Show Choir 11.12; SADD 12.



Sarah Elizabeth Sprague- Choir 9.10.11.12; French Club 9.10.11; NHS 11.12; Show Choir 11.12; SADD 12.

Kandace Diana Stanford- Choir 9.10.11; SADD 11;

Track 9.10.11; WLT 12; Jerrona Davida Stanley-

Choir 9.10.11; Sara Kathryn Stanzione-

Cheerleading 10.11.12; Class Officer 10.11.12; Debate 12;

Orchestra 9.10.11.12; Student Government 11.12; Teachers

Aide 12; Track 10.11; Soccer Manager 11.12; Tiffany

Helen Stochel- Choir 9.10.11.12; Drama Club

9.10.11.12; Drama Club Officer 12; Fall Play 12; Key Club 9.10;

NHS 11.12; Q&S 11.12; Q&S Officer 12; Revue 11.12; Show

Choir 11.12; Spanish Club 11; Spring Musical 9.10.11.12; SADD

11.12; Teacher's Aide 9; Thespians 9.10.11.12; Thespians

Officer 12; Vocal Teens 11.12; Yearbook 11.12; Yearbook

Editor-in-chief 12



CLASS OF 2000



Jaime Bainbridge points and laughs at a classmate in amazement at a SADD activity.



Derek Floyd lends a hand working on the Senior Class float for the Homecoming Parade.



Shea Alexander Street- Academic Decathlon Team 12; Band 9,10,11; Jazz Impact 11,12; Pirate Radio 9,10; PNN 9,10; Revue 11,12; WHHS Productions 9,10.

Jennifer

Lynn Strom-Orchestra 9; Soccer 11; Teacher's Aide 12.

Jeffrey Styles- Art Club 10,11,12; Pirate Radio 9; PNN 9;

Teacher's Aide 10,11,12; Peter Suleski- soccer 9,10,11;

Wrestling 10; Elizabeth Nicole Sullivan- Key Club 9,10,11,12; Key Club Officer 10,11,12; Teacher's Aide 11,12;

Frock 9,10,11, captain 12.



Kelley Sullivan- Choir 9,10,11,12; CWC 12; Fall Play 10; FCA 9; Golf 9; NHS 11,12; Office Aide 9; PNN 9; Show Choir 11,12; Softball 11; SADD Officer 9,10,11; SADD Officer 11,12; Swimming 9; Swimming Captain 12; Track 10; Volleyball 9.

Brian Star- Golf 9,10,11,12; PNN 9,10,11; Teacher's Aide 9,10,11,12; Soccer Captain 11; Teacher's Aide 12.

David A. Symanski Jr. - HERO 12.

Soccer 10,11; Soccer Captain 11; Teacher's Aide 12. Mary Elizabeth Sauerker- Band 9,10,11; Fog Corps 9,10,11; Fog Corps Captain 11; French Club 9; Student Government 9; Track 9. Andrew Tanase- Art Club 1, Basketball 9,10; Drama Club 10; Football 11,12; Homecoming Court/Basketball 10; NHS 11,12; Spanish Club 10; SADD 12; Track 9,10,11,12.



Rick B. Taylor- Choir 9; Debate 12; Office Aide 12;

Teacher's Aide 12. Wandalyn Taylor- Class Officer 9,10; Pom-poms 9.

Chrissine Marie Teet- Spanish Club 10; COE 12.

Gina Marie Templin- Choir 9; Key Club 10,11; Tim Terry.



Frederick Thiel- Choir 9,10,11,12; Office Aide 12; Pirate

Radio 10; Teacher's Aide 12. Victoria Thompsons.

Jessica Thornley- Gabriela Tirado- NHS 11,12.

Carmella S. Topp- HERO 12.

CLASS OF 2000

Joann Trajkovski- Soccer 10,11; Teacher's Aide 12

Ryan Anthony Transfiguration- Band 9,10,11,12; Cross Country 10,11,12; Jazz Impact 10,11,12; NHS 11,12; Mascot 10,11,12

Lence Trpkoski- Soccer 10,11,12; Teacher's Aide 12

Powder Puff 9- Steve Tashas, Shunra Renee Turner- Track 10,11,12; W.I.T.T. 12



Christina Lynn Upshaw- BPA 12; Key Club 11; PNN 10; Guest Club 11; WMHS Productions 9,10; WMHS Production Producer 10. Roblyn Urbahns- Chor 10,11,12; HERO

12. Michelle Lynne Uremovich- Baseball 10; Drama Club 10,11,12; French Club 10,11; French Club Officer 12; Got 9,10,11,12; Homecoming Court/Football 12; Homecoming Princess 9,10; NHS 11,12; Natural Helpers 10,11,12; Pirate Radio 11; PNA 10,11,12; Softball 9,10; Spring Musical 11,12; SADD 9; Teacher's Aide 10; WMHS Productions 10,11,12; Yearbook 12. Kristy Renee Uroquiza-

SADD 11,12; Powder Puff 9. Vanessa Angela Villa- Drama Club 9; Fall Play 9; FEA 12; Orchestra 9,10; Soccer 11; Spanish Club 9; SADD 11,12; Teacher's Aide 12; Track 9; Powder Puff 9.



Amanda Renee Valse- Basketball 9; NHS 11,12; Orchestra 9,10,11,12; Tennis 9,10,11,12; Tennis Captain 12.

Jaclyn Marie VanDuseldorp- Cheering 10,11,12; Choir 9,10,11,12; Homecoming Court/Football 12; Soccer 11,12; Track 9,10,11,12; Captain 12. Eryn Van

Loon- Denise Renee Verville- Basketball 9; SADD 10,11,12; Teacher's Aide 12. Christopher X. Vargas II- Basketball 9; Soccer 9,10,11,12; Wrestling 10



Michael Anthony Vargas Jr.- Baseball 12; SADD 12; Track 12; Wrestling 12. Sevia Vazquez- Art Club 9; NHS 11,12; SADD 12; Student Government 9,12; Tennis 9,10,11,12; Tennis Captain 9; Powder Puff 9. Anna

Marie Veseli. Jose Dolores Venegas III- Tennis 12; Track 10,11,12. Eduardo Villarreal- Band 9,10,11,12; Jazz Impact 11; NHS 11,12; Pirate Radio 9,10,11; PNN 9,10; Revue 11; Spanish Club 11,12; WMHS Productions 9,10.



Jennifer L. Villars- Pom-poms 9, 10, 11, 12; Yearbook 12. Jaclyn Pauline Visine- Band 9,10,11,12; Basketball 9; NHS 11,12; Softball 9,10,11,12; Volleyball 9,10,11,12. Matthew Gary Virnai- Drama Club 9,10,11,12; German Club 9,10. Teacher's Aide 12; Inspector 10,11,12; G.A.P.P. 12. Robert James Waldron- NHS

11,12; SADD 12. Ti-Yen E. Ward- Academic Decathlon Team 12; CWC 12; Gymnastics 9,10; Key Club 9; Orchestra 9,10,11,12; Prom Court 11; Spanish Club 11,12; SADD 12; Track 11; WMHS Productions 11,12



April L. Wardell- Environmental Club 10; Teacher's Aide 12. Nicholas Wardrip- Baseball 9,10,11,12

Jernimaine White- Building trades 11,12. Brandon Williams- Band 9; Basketball 9. James R. Williams,



M Malahkia Joyner poses for the camera with a smile upon her face.



Jermee Williamson- Bond
9,10,11,12: Fog Corps 10,11,12: Fog Corps Captain 11,12. Damion Wilson.

Veronica Wilson— Debate 12;
HERO 12. Carla Wise.

Brian Woolwine. Angela
Renee Ziller- Teacher's Aide 10



PARTICIPATING Versatility IN MANY DIFFERENT ACTIVITIES

When people hear the name "Joyner" they might think about the two track stars, Jackie Joyner-Kersee and Florence Griffith-Joyner. But not at MHS. This Joyner did participate in a running event, Cross Country; however, this star stood out in more ways than one.

Malahkia Joyner was one of the most versatile students attending MHS. She participated in many clubs and organizations. Yet, this National Honor Society member managed to maintain an A-B average or higher.

Although she participated in many clubs, the one club she singled out was Natural Helpers. "I will never forget the retreat my sophomore year. Jenni R., I'm still thinking about ways to get you back for the spider," Malahkia said. Her retreat might have been an event to remember, but not as memorable as her year long experience in Brazil.

Don't get her wrong, academics and sports don't fill all of her time, she also has a job working at Sears.

When asked about her future plans, she has narrowed her college choices down to Washington University and the University of Arizona. "All I really want to do is get out of this snow," she explained. She planned to study in Pre-medicine and become a rich and famous doctor someday.

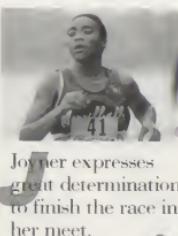
ACTIVITIES ABBREVIATIONS KEY

BPA - Business Professionals of America
COE - Cooperative Office Education
CPG - Commencement Planning Committee
FCA - Fellowship of Christian Athletes
FEA - Future Educators of America

FCCLA - Family, Career, and Community Leaders of America (formerly FHA)
NJHS - National Junior Honor Society
NHS - National Honor Society
PNN - Pirate News Network
Q & S - Quill and Scroll
SAC - Student Advisory Council
SADD - Students Against Destructive Decisions



A Adam Fedak rests on the sideline to get a quick drink during a quarter break. Adam was a main component of the strong defensive team this year.



Joyner expresses great determination to finish the race in her meet.

Jeremy Alder is a junior who loves skateboarding in the summer and snowboarding in the winter.



Passionate BEING ABOUT SKATEBOARDING

Ever wonder who that guy was in the hallway? You know, the one with the baggy clothes, crazy dreadlocks, and a huge smile on his face? You've probably come into visual contact with Jeremy Alder who had a great sense of humor and a quick wit.

Being content with himself, Jeremy wouldn't change anything about himself except his name. He'd like to "make it shorter so it wouldn't take so long to start my homework." When he's not contemplating quicker ways to start his schoolwork, Jeremy's main passion was skateboarding. He spent countless hours practicing and perfecting his dangerous boarding stunts. His favorite hang outs were Josh's house and various skate parks in the area. His taste in music reflected his drive for skateboarding. He liked "anything motivational towards skateboarding," but didn't limit himself to one type of music.

Jeremy also had many hopes and aspirations. After high school, Jeremy wanted to find a girl who "cares as much about me as I do about her" and planned to continue skateboarding competitively.

Drawing is one of Jeremy's many interests.



Jeremy pauses for a laugh while painting a picture in the art loft.



Jessica Abbott
Matthew Abbot
Staud Abdullah



Jessica Adams
Brian Adler
Michael Amone



Naomi Alcala
Jeremy Alder
Jeremy Aliff



Nicholus Alston
Nicole Alston
Eunice Amazigo



Joseph Ameding
Jose Anaya
Darrian Anderson



Mile Anderson
Nina Anderson
Angelo Anton



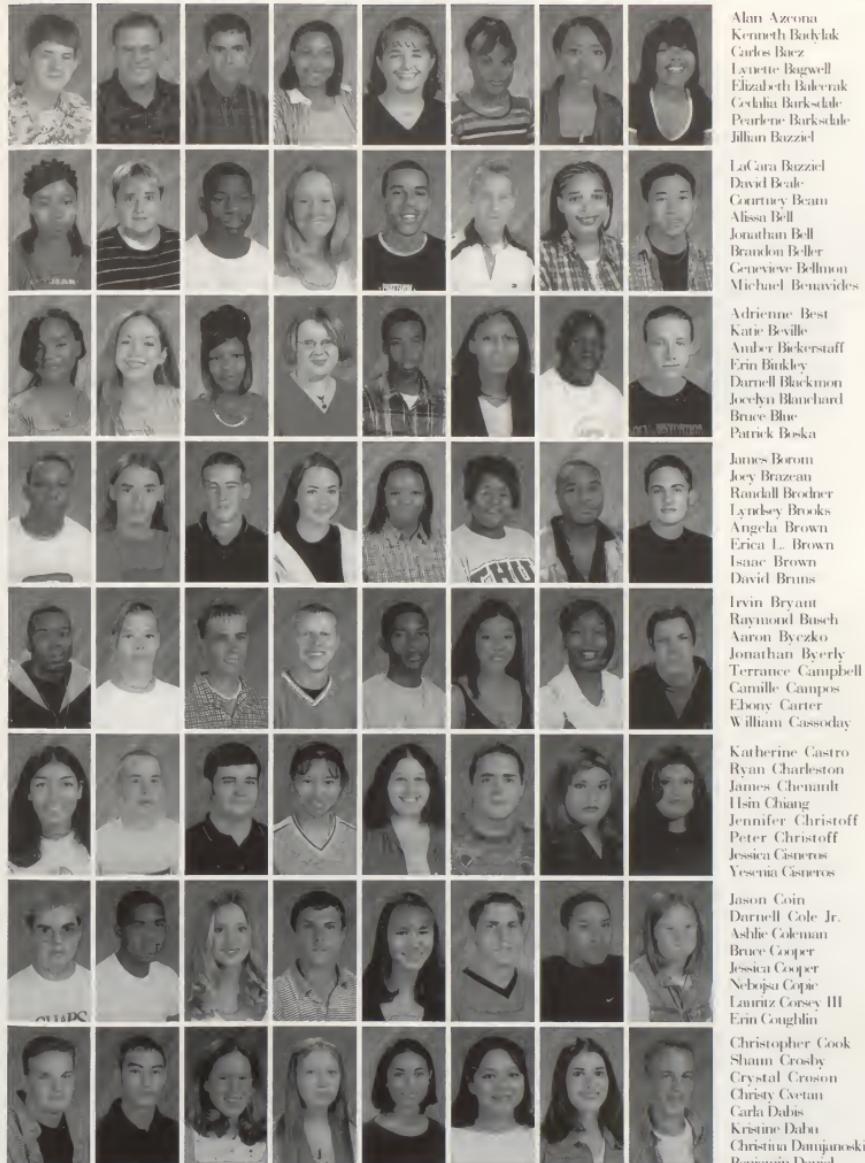
Edwina Aponte
Jennifer Arambula
Baffour Asabere



Elizabeth Atwood
Mitchell Antonichon
Carlton Ayers



CLASS OF 2001



Alam Azcona
Kenneth Badylak
Carlos Baez
Lyvette Bagwell
Elizabeth Balcerak
Cynthia Barksdale
Pearlene Barksdale
Jillian Bazzie

LaGura Bazzie
David Beale
Courtney Beam
Alissa Bell
Jonathan Bell
Brandon Bellmon
Genevieve Bellmon
Michael Benavides

Adrienne Best
Katie Beville
Amber Bickerstaff
Erin Binkley
Darnell Blackmon
Jocelyn Blanchard
Bruce Blue
Patrick Boska

James Borom
Joey Brazean
Randall Brodner
Lansley Brooks
Angela Brown
Erica L. Brown
Isaiah Brown
David Bruns

Irvin Bryant
Raymond Busch
Aaron Byczko
Jonathan Byerly
Terrance Campbell
Camille Campos
Ebony Carter
William Cassoday

Katherine Castro
Ryan Charleston
James Chemant
Hsin Chiang
Jennifer Christoff
Peter Christoff
Jessica Cisneros
Yesenia Cisneros

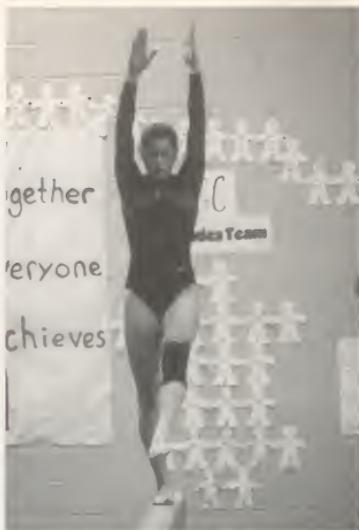
Jason Cohn
Darnell Cole Jr.
Ashlie Coleman
Bruce Cooper
Jessica Cooper
Nebojsa Copic
Lauren Corsey III
Erin Coughlin

Christopher Cook
Shawn Crosby
Crystal Crosby
Christy Cvetan
Carla Dabis
Kristine Dabis
Christina Damjanoski
Benjamin Daniel

CLASS OF 2001

Brandon Beller and Jeremy Rinker study in the hallway. It was sometimes quieter in the halls than in a classroom.

Katie Dyer prepares to execute a perfect 10.0 on the beam.



Michael Danko
Rudlika Dave
Angela De Jesus
Sharon Delacruz
Leroy Dennis
Marquita Dennis
Allison Derico
Amanda Diehl



Raymond Dix
Ksenija Djukic
James Donelson
Risto Doneski
Tracy Dow
Molly Draper
Brandon Dravet
Nikola Drljaca



Pero Dukleski
Bianca Dunkin
Katherlyn Dyer
Daniel Eckstrom
Ali El-Omar
Daniel Ellinger
Dana English
Denairo Equihua



Angela Escobedo
Victor Espinosa Jr.
Michael Evans
Aubrey Fairburn
Laurie Farver
Nina Fernandez
Chris Fesko
Matthew Festa



Austin Floyd
Ryan Fogarty
Nicole Foore
Michael Ford
Adara Force
Mary Ann Fotis
Catherine Freeman
Kia Freeman





"Let's go Pirates!"
School spirit fills the air as Ashley Suggs, Nicole Sweeny, and Meredith Lucas cheer on the boys' basketball team.

Amanda Deihl luggs boxes of donated food onto a bus. The Thanksgiving Food Drive gathered two bus loads of food for the needy.



Ben Daniel concentrates on perfecting a paper in one of the many computer labs.



Marquita Fuentes
Garrett Gaboyan
Peter Gaines
Steven Gaines
Christina Garza
Richard Garza
Kortina Gates
Charese Gault



Colt Gay
Kathleen Gayda
Andy Gerlach
Julia Gil
Ronald Glaze
Edgardo Gomez
Amandra Gonzalez
Nicholas Gonzalez



Ormar Gore
Christopher Gough
Nickolas Graves
Jason Gray
Melissa Gray
Jeremy Greene
Cordelia Greenleaf
Frantoinne Greenwood



Christopher Gregory
Joseph Gregory
Nathan Gregory
Jessica Gross
Samuel Guijardo
Lacie Hacker
Lanren Hacker
Jonathan Hadt



Hara Halkias
Nicole Halkias
Megan Hampton
Thomas Hancock
Justin Hansen
Jason Harness
Stacey Harrell
Dena Harris

The inspirational Choir rehearses a song after school. They performed at various places during the year and held their own concerts at MHS.



Members of the Pep Band enjoy being part of a kick line at a boys' basketball game.

Matt Cunningham recites a line to Amanda McIntire in the fall play "Harvey." The stage was home to many students looking for self-expression.



Joshua Harris
Patricia Harris
Michele Haughton
Thera Hazlett
Matthew Hebert
Kristi Hefflin
Nicole Heidbreder
Immanuel Henderson



Antonio Hernandez
Jason Hernandez
Maria Herrera
Curtis Herzog
Nick Hidalgo
Ryan Hill
Cheryl Hoggland
Richard Holtz



Antonio Horton
Lauren Horwith
Virginia Hughes
Matthew Huttle
Michael Inthisanee
Mirko Ivanovic
Amanda Jakowski
Serreana Jackson



Michelle Janeski
Kendall Jefferson
Jason Jenenko
Keunisha Jenkins
Michael Jenkins
Wyatt Johnson
Amy Jones
Claudia Jones



Krystle Jones
Michael Jones
Debra Jorgensen
Christopher Josifovski
Aunanda Joselyn
Laura Jostes
Thears Judkins
Kewanauna Jukkes



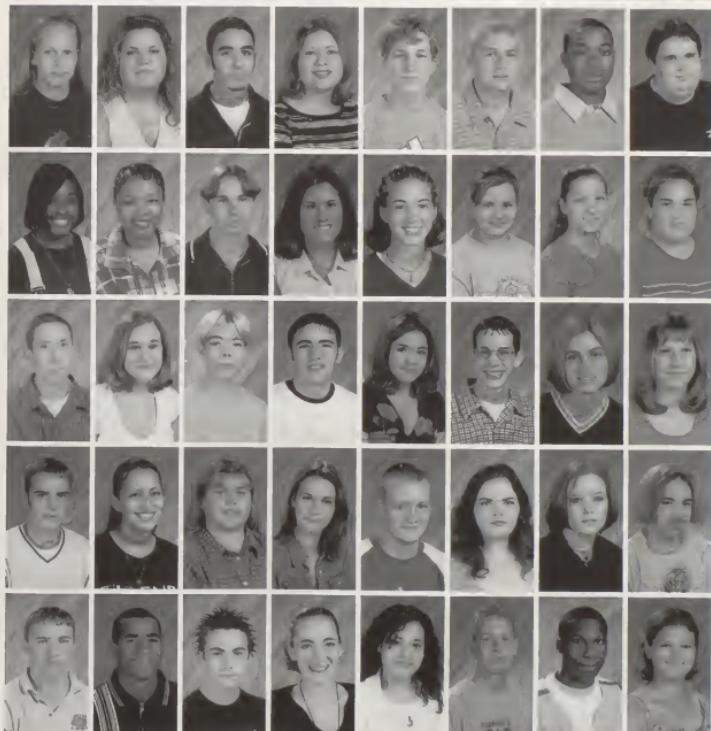
CLASS OF 2001



Whitney Lake prepares to test the waters with a dive. Many hours of practice were put in to bring the diving team such success this year.



Time
Demi-Janowski shows a little attitude while performing a dance routine during halftime of a basketball game.



Lisa Kudlak
Kirsten Kaiser
George Kalogers
Christie Kamanaroff
Neil Kasiak
Jenemiah Keene
Jarett Kelly
Kevin Kerr

Erica Kimble
Mia Kimble
David Kish
Melissa Kish
Leslie Klemiński
Bojana Klajic
Mirjana Klajic
Amy Kocke

Mike Kohlbus
Amanda Komenda
Kristopher Komenich
Pavel Kosteski
Irene Kortesis
Kevin Kovas
Kimberly Kozub
Kimberly Krizman

Derek Lamprecht
Elizabeth Largent
Katie Larson
Brenna LaTulip
David Lee
Sarah Lenker
Jennifer Leonard
Erik Lesko

Le Roy Lewis
Michael Liess
James Longhi
Leah Lopez
Sonia Lopez
Michael Lord
Joseph Lowe
Lindsey Lubovich

CLASS OF 2001

Meredith Lucas
Jesse Lutinen

John Lynn

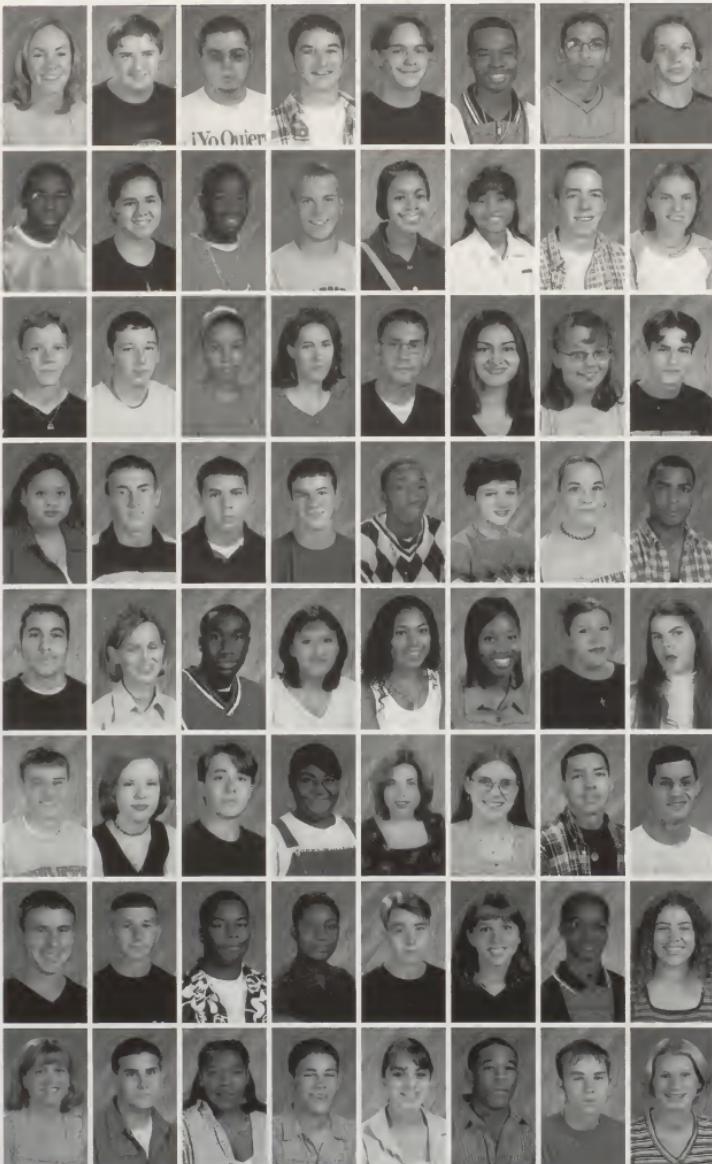
Terrie Maddox

Denny Madison

Jimmie Mallard

Vincent Manara

Andrew Marcus



Brandon Marcus
Melissa Maretich

Garrett Marshall

Michael Mays

Tamia McCarley

Schenell McLendon

Jason McGolly

Brianna McGee

Jason McGee

Michael McLendon

Kristie McMillan

Michele Meacham

Mark Megyesi

Irene Menchua

Michelle Merkels

Brian Merritt

Isabel Meza

Nicholas Michelin

Steve Miljus

Juston Miller

Maurice Miller

Melissa Miodragovic

Victoria Marin

Sean Mitchell

Daniel Mola

Dawn Molchan

Ramuses Montgomery

Jessica Moreno

Armalita Muro

Erica Murphy

Victoria Murphy

Kathryn Murray

Marian Munceski

Rachel Najdzan

Stephen Nason

Candace Nelson

Jamie Nelson

Mindi Nelson

Juan Nieto

Ramon Nieves

Daniel Niksch

Jason Nolan

Keith Norment

Ihuoma Nwabeku

Wayne O'Brien

Jennifer Okiechich

Nnanna Onyeka

Renee Ortega

Jennifer Orze

Michael Orzechowicz

Ebonee' Pace

John Padberg

Constance Panayi

Michael Parikas

Joel Patterson

Cassandra Pavlovich

Taking a break from studying gives Kendall a chance to show off her dimples and laugh for a moment.



Andy Pawlowski
Eileen Peden
Christina Peete



Robert Perez
Cheryl Perkins
Shane Peschke



Amy Petruch
Diane Petty
Brandon Pierson



Amy Pivovarnik
Jennifer Plys
Brian Polak



Kelly Polonezyk
Joanna Ponce
Nichole Pounds



Randy Powell
Dallas Pratt
Robert Prentoski



David Price
Erik Price
Nathan Pritchard



Dante Pritchett
James Procter Jr.
Da'Shendria Radford



PLANNING Medicine TO BE DR. JEFFERSON

Kendall Jefferson, a junior at Merrillville High, had it all together. Jefferson participated in several after school activities. She was in the MASH program, tutored, played in the band and competed in many solo and ensemble contests.

Although Jefferson was very busy in these activities, it did not affect her ability to get her homework done. She still had time to go out with her friends and her boyfriend.

After she graduated, her plan was to attend to college at Georgetown, and then head to Duke for medicine. Her goals in life were to become a pediatric surgeon, get married and have a family. In the near future she saw herself in college, probably in Washington, D.C.

Jefferson described herself as a serious person who got work done before she had fun. She believed herself to be very supportive and helpful to the people she was close to. Truth was important to her; she didn't like people who stereotyped others. Her friends were a big part of her life. Through the years, they were there when she needed them, and they understood her.



Kendall Jefferson stops to pose for the camera.



Kendall concentrates on her math test in the hallway.

CLASS OF 2001

The choir asks "What's in the box?" at the annual Christmas concert. The choirs practiced after school to sound perfect.



John Padberg performs a saxophone solo at the band's annual Christmas concert.



Tiffany Rainey
Aleia Lambert
Daniel Ramirez
Jennifer Ramirez
Melissa Ramirez
Renee Ramos
Lonnie Randolph
John Rangel



Kyle Ratkovich
Akhila Reddy
George Reed III
Gregory Refner
Charles Reilly
Cynthia Reyna
Nathaniel Reynolds
Aaron Rice



Tracey Rico
Kostadin Ristevski
Riste Ristevski
Sha'Ria Roberson
Timothy Roberts
Bryan Robertson
Michael Robinson III
Aaron Rodriguez



Vincent Romero
Sean Rosenbaum
Jeffrey Roth
Cassandra Rounds
Keith Roy
Aimee Ruder
Amber Ruisard
Bret Sager



Tiffany Sajdera
Danny Salazar
Kasey Samson
Luisana Sanchez
Joe Sapkar
Steven Schaab
Daniel Schroers
Steven Schroers





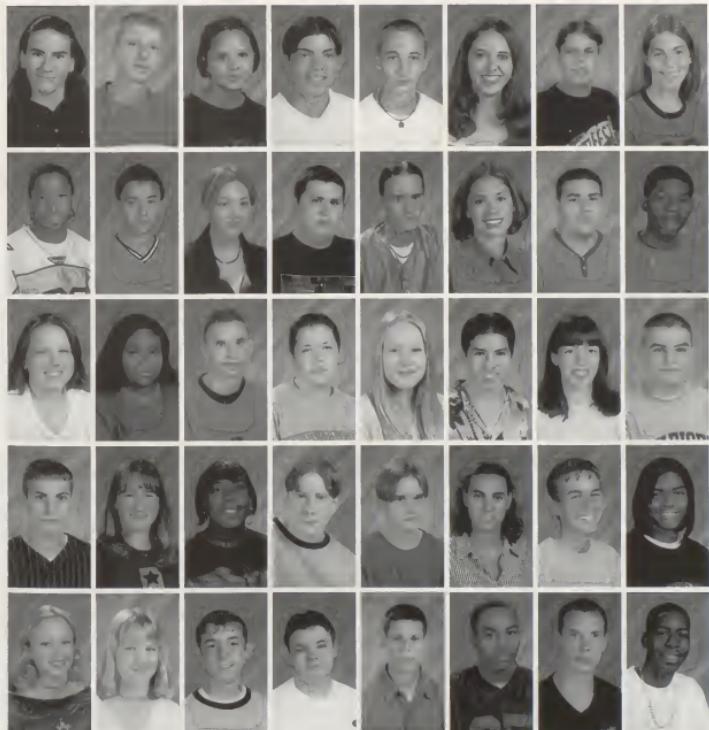
Angela Escobedo teaches a young girl how to play a game at the Fun Fair. The night was one of the many community-centered activities.



James Borom drives in for an easy lay-up at the Huntington North game. His swift speed left his defender in the dust.



Mike Mays easily turns his opponent over his shoulders as he tries for a takedown.



Kevin Schulz
Tony Semovski
Melissa Shawer
Dustin Shea
Jason Shelton
Tiffany Shelton
James Shoemaker
Jessica Shots

Lothar Sickles
Peter Sierra
Tabitha Silva
Daniel Simones
Chris Simunjak
Mehan Skorupka
John Slavik
Courtney Smith

Janice Smith
Kimberly Smith
Scott Smoljan
Joseph Snelson
Kristen Snyder
Christopher Sohacki
Dawn Somers
Susi Sotiroski

Adam Sowinski
Stephanie Spangler
Severina Spivey
Erick Stanley
Dustin Stark
Jillian Stasiak
Thomas Stevens
Sharonda Stewart

Amy Stillson
Rebecca Stites
Richard Stoffle
Charles Stojakovich
Kevin Stompor
Brandon Strange
Keith Strehler
Marcus Styles

Brienne McGee smiles with enthusiasm while performing a pre-game show. Cold autumn nights were no match for the dance team's spirit.



Dawn Molchan focuses on the dive she is about to attempt. Mental strength was a crucial part to diving success.

Kris Dabu strums a chord on his guitar at the Christmas band concert. Dabu also plays in a band outside of school.



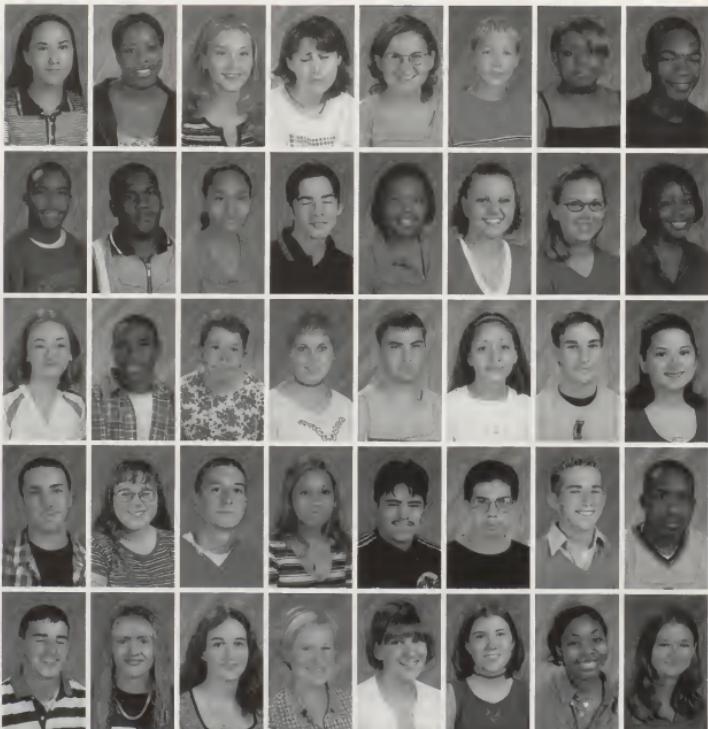
Mali Suetrong
Ashley Suggs
Nicole Sweeney
Jillian Swisher
Aubrey Szany
Jeffrey Talbot
Lacretia Tatum
Craig Taylor

James Taylor
Steven Taylor
Koree Thomas
Keith Thomason
Samaria Thompson
Jessica Todd
Nicole Tonko
Antunette Torrence

Marina Trajkovski
Parris Turner
Sarah Turner
Jennifer Turoci
Steven Turoci
Rosalinda Uribe
Joseph Utolka IV
Marisa Valdez

Kyle Van Winkle
Amanda Vargo
Alexander Vasileski
Virginia Vila
Daniel Villarreal
Jonathan Virgo
Kyle Vrotny
Brandon Walker

Calvin Wallace
Christina Walls
Christina Walsh
Holly Wasiluk
Julie Watson
Amy Watts
Ashley Weems
Rachel Weems



EMPOWER

Kristine Dabu smiles and silently thinks "Help!" as she attempts to set down a box of food from the Student Government food drive.

CLASS OF 2001



Audrey Fairbairn learns that making cotton candy is an art as she attempts to twirl together a serving during the Fun Fair.



Benito White
Tiffany White
Christopher Williams
Karyl Willison
Whitney Wills
Adam Wilson
Thomas Wimbish Jr.
Gori Wimmer



Michelle Woolley
Crystal Woolwine
Brandi Wright
Timothy Wright
Jason Yagaski
Tiffany Yates
Anastasia Yntras
Jonathan Zamora



Linda Zamora
Michael Zelisko

Andy Pawlowski hustles toward the ball. Pawlowski was a key player for the soccer team this season.



As she stands across the stage, Melissa Gray shows off her talent by singing "When You Believe," in the 2000 Revue.

Like many students, Josh Goeringer poses for pictures with Sarah Certa before the big dance.



Adapting GOING FROM SMALL TO LARGE

"It's a big change for me, I use to be with the same 23 kids every year," said Josh Goeringer, who attended Trinity Lutheran in Crown Point from kindergarten to eighth grade. Josh adapted to public schools with no problem. "I like it here a lot better," he said.

Josh was also a member of the JV basketball team. "I love to play. I don't get a lot of playing time, but it is worth it," explained Josh.

Studying also took up some of Josh's time. Josh was in all honors classes and was working towards the Academic Honors Diploma. Josh liked to spend his free time with his girlfriend, Sarah Certa. She became a major part of Josh's high school years since they were been together for most of it. "I call her beautiful all the time. She's funny, pretty, and cute. Everything she does just makes me laugh and smile," Josh said about Sarah.

Josh and Sarah met in summer school going into their freshman year and were been together ever since. "We get along really great; I think we'll be together for a long time."

Josh and Sarah take a minute to have a picture taken.



Josh Goeringer smiles for the camera. He likes his new school.



Hasan Hafiz Abdol
Ashley Abrego
Erica Monique Adamie



Syed Adil Aftab
Joshua Agne
Richard Agosto



Ali Ahmed
Joseph Aigner
Tiffany Alleman



Eugene Allen
Tiffany Allen
Anthony Allison



Matthew Aloia
Gabriela Alvarez
Michael Amundsen



Esperanza Anaya
Daniel Angotti
Andrea Aponte



Sarah Argenta
Samantha Argue
Kristina Artibey



Amber Ashe
James Ashe
Vanessa Assiley-Mensh



CLASS OF 2002



Robert Banks
Lorin Barnum
Kathy Barnes
Adrian Barrera
Megan Barry
Jose Benavente
Joshua Berk
Damon Berry

Jason Berry
Lisa Bewley
Nicole Birmingham
Matthew Bishop
Allen Bobowsky
Tamara Bowen
Enola Boyd-Radford
Danisha Briner

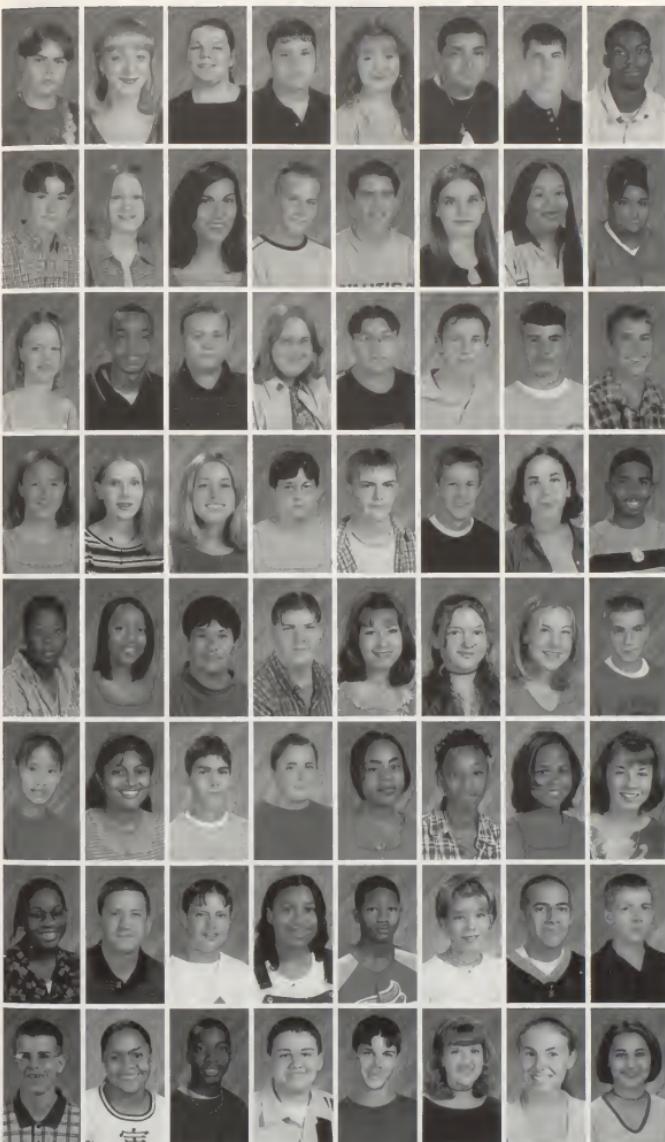
Tiffany Brosch
David Brown
Matthew Brown
Megan Brown
Dean Brunett
Jerry Brunn
Jonathan Budz
Michael Bunnell

Amanda Burden
Melissia Burgess
Michelle Busse
Jason Camiso
Robert Campbell
Scott Cannon
Victoria Cantrell
Mario Carrasquillo

Lashawn Carter
Rachel Carathers
Carlos Casanova
Joshua Cassoddy
Krystal Catania
Donna Cernak
Sarah Certa
Nikolas Charleston
Chia Chieh Chiang
Maneesha Chigurupati
Philip Chirilla
Enril Cioci Jr.
Shakeem Clark
Kimberly Clemons
Brittany Cobb
Kristina Coburn

Crystal Coleman
Kenneth Coleman
Matthew Collins
SeAndrea Collins
Javan Conner
Sarah Conquest
Sunimo Cordilla
Christopher Crabbe

Ryan Craft
Shanell Crindenten
Daren Cudjoe
Matthew Cunningham
Justin Curtis
Katherine Czajlik
Amanda D'Orazio
Lara Dabbs



CLASS OF 2002

Austin Floyd takes a bag of food from Dave Rooda as they load food from the food drive onto the bus.

Teresa Nixon cheers as loud as she can for the Pirates basketball team.



Kristofer Dabu
Nicholas Dallas
Mitchell Danford
Monique Darden
Hauan Dave
Angelie Davis
Tiffaney Davis
Zachery Davis



Gustavo Del Real
Arial Denme
Roben Denvit
Timothy Denvit
William Denvit
Kenneth Dettterline
Dominic Deyarmin
Danessa DelaCruz



Leah Dixon
Thomas Dobbs
Aaron Doeing
Anna Marie Doko
Pete Dorulewski
Wesley Doty Jr.
William Downs
Christopher Drapau



Misti Dugger
Centeretha Duncan
Darian Echols
Terence Eckrich
Elizabeth Elder
Lanetta Ellison
Amanda Elser
Monique Eunmons



Albert Escobedo
Michael Escobedo
Daniel Estes
Joshua Everett
Nicholas Fisher
Jennifer Fizer
Kristina Fleck
Oswaldo Flores





Aunie Stupic smiles as she pins a rose boutonniere on her date before having their picture taken.

Kelly Polster concentrates on the position of her body during a routine on uneven bars.



A member of Student Government carries a box of food to the bus. The food drive is an annual event.



Veronica Flores
Katie Jo Floyd
Lisa Frulinger
Ginger Francis
Michael Francis
Jonathon Franzen
Kelli Fravel
Casey Frey



Julia Frey
Kenneth Frey
Megan Furlic
Christopher Gabriel
Jason Gaffney
Tiffany Gallegos
Jennifer Garcia
Nancy Garcia



Kerita Garner
Lorenzo Gayton
Christopher Geruska
Laura Gestring
Larry Gibbons
Stephen Gill
Joy Gilmore
Jason Giordano



Zlatica Gjoreski
Sharon Glaze
Joshua Goeringer
Katrina Gomez
Oscar Gomez
Elena Gonzalez
Jessica Gonzalez
Stephanie Gonzalez



Thomas Gonzalez
Herman Goodman
Marina Goreski
Keith Gough
Jason Grace
Aaron Green
Candace Greenleaf
Scott Gregory

Curt Herzog and his date hold each other close during a slow song at Turnabout.



A percussionist concentrates on her part for the vibraphone.

Ashley Vasaitis models her 2000 hat at the last Turnabout of the millennium.



Karen Gresh
Brandon Griffin
Renee Griggs
Britany Grimmer
Samantha Grzesik
Tamara Grzesik
Adam Guajardo
Tim Gust



Jeffery Haluschak
Sandra Halbe
Juan Hall
Janice Hallenbeck
Michael Halligan
Rachel Hammond
Marlon Hanley
Nathan Harris



Joshua Harvorth
Corey Hawkins
Deborah Hawkins
Chaya Hayes
Shevnie Haynes
Christopher Hebert
Elizabeth Hebert
Nicole Herrera



Jacqueline Highsmith
Alexandria Hodges
Ronald Holley
Andrew Holmes
Lauren Honola
Stacey Hokks
Jayne Horan
Robyn Horton



Heather Huish
Robert Huish
Cynthia Hunke
Jemika Hunter
Charles Hurd
David Husak
Elizabeth Ilveski
Phillip Ingram



CLASS OF 2002

Cross country runner Marc Maple tries to keep his pace. Cross country requires stamina and determination.



Students carry food from their first period class to the Guidance conference room for collection.



Daniel Inthiisane
Mirka Ivanovic
Kristine Jackomis
Jennifer Jackowski
Arthur Jackson
Franklin Jackson
Vince Jackson
Matthew Jagiela

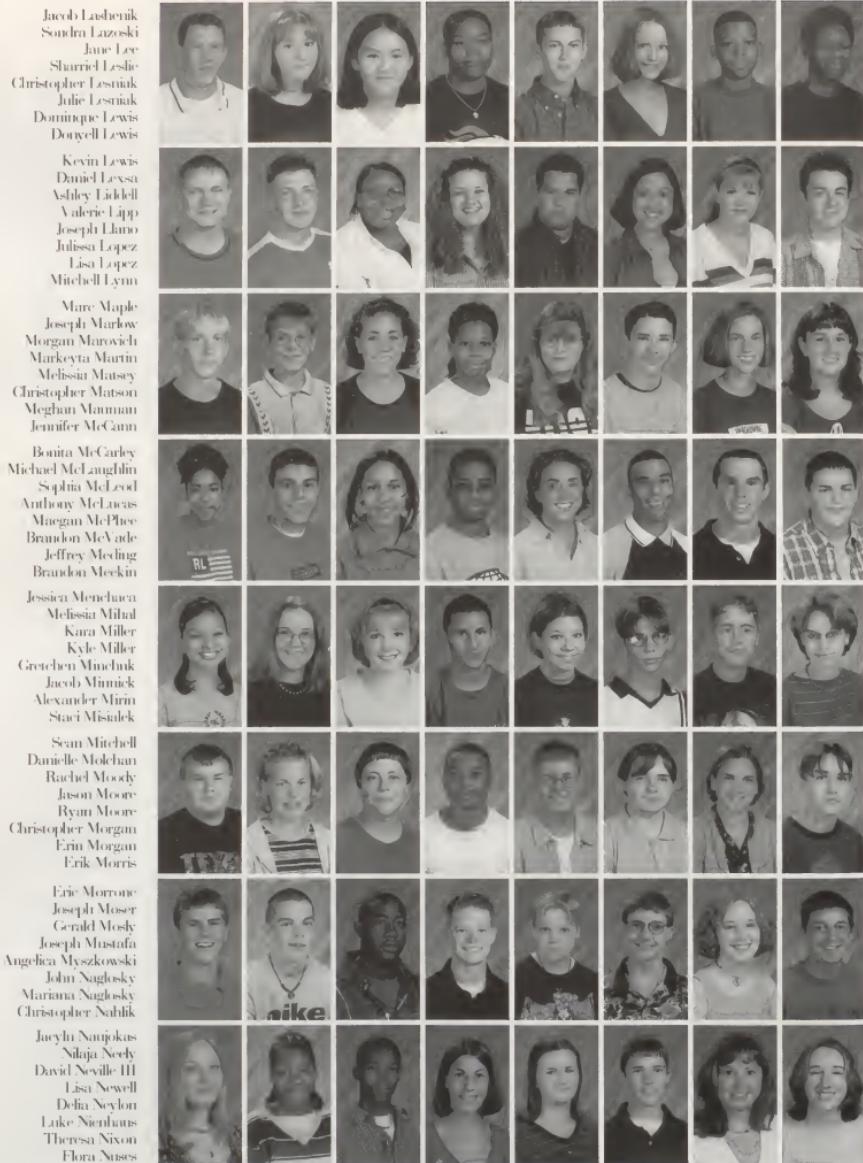
Jennifer Jansen
Jonathan Jasinski
Gregory Jeter
James Johnson
Joseph Johnson
Justin Johnson
Nina Johnson
Vince Johnson

Nicole Jolly
Erika Jones
Billy Jones Jr.
Paula Jones
Jeffrey Jolkes Jr.
Joseph Juramocski
Amy Kaste

Stacey Kavos
Jonathan Kelsey
Blake Kendera
Tyannah King
Jamie Kirby
Nicholas Klebs
Jim Knight
Martina Knight

Deirdre Knobbe
Philip Knots
Christopher Kors
Mark Koves
Dana Kraska
Jillian Kuck
Matthew Lancaster
Riley Larimore

CLASS OF 2002



Kelly Polster has a smile for the camera. Her dance and gymnastics training help her in her cheerleading as well.



Lauren Nuzzo
Clifford O'Neil
Michael O'Reilly



Olivia Obregon
Marofis Olandezos
Craig Ohs



Shaun Ortiz
Nathan Osborne
Amanda Pagel



Krystal Palacios
Taylor Palmateer
Myle Palomo



Amanda Panning
Sarah Papp
Jermell Parrish



Phillip Patterson
Clifford Payo
Zachery Pearman



Lauren Pena
Linda Pena
Claudia Perez



Kennedy Perkins
Kelly Pero
David Perry



Tumbling DOING GYMNASTICS AND DANCE

Kelly Polster was most well-known for her outgoing personality and unique laugh. "I like to have a good time when I'm out with my friends, and I love to laugh," said Kelly. "At practice we're always laughing because of her, even our coaches laugh," said teammate Megan Skorupka. Kelly has been in gymnastics for 10 years, but first started out doing club gymnastics. "I have a lot more friends on the team here. We're all really close and get along great," said Kelly about her current teammates. "I'm excited about this year," Kelly explained. "I think we have a really good chance advancing to state, and I would like to be a part of it." Kelly knew that her hard work would pay off.

Kelly was also a member of the white varsity cheerleading team during football season. "I love to cheer," said Kelly. "It's fun to interact with the crowd and cheer on our teams." Being a cheerleader went right along with Kelly's personality.

Outside of school Kelly was active in dance. "My favorite types of dance are funk and jazz," said Kelly. She had been dancing for seven years and performed in recitals every June.

Kelly's cheerful personality wins her lots of friends.



Polster shows her determination to do a strong routine on the uneven bars.

CLASS OF 2002

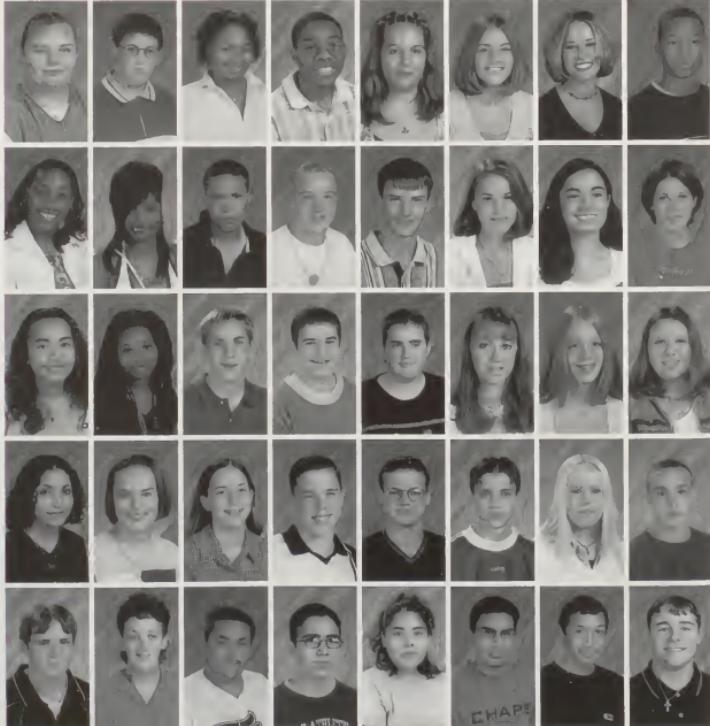
Ginger
Frances
and
Carey
Ruckman
head
down
IAW hall
toward
the
fieldhouse
after
school.



Brandon Mc Vade reacts as
his opponent is unable to
return his volley.



Kim Perry
Tim Perry
Veronica Phelps
Jason Pierce
Amanda Pivarnik
Aimee Phukas
Kelly Polster
Claude Powers III



Ronisha Pratt
Cathryn Presley
Seneca Price
David Pratt
Gregory Pucher Jr.
Lindsay Punnen
Danna Quintanilla
Danielle Ragon

April Ramirez
Lashema Randolph
Timothy Randolph
Joshua Reberg
Justin Reed
Colleen Regan
Heather Renchon
Felecia Renner

Amy Reyna
Amanda Ricchio
Melissa Richards
Robert Richards
James Riddle
Simon Ristevski
Samantha Roaden
Brendan Roberts

Nickolas Roberts
Rebecca Robinson
Mark Rodriguez
Michael Rodriguez
Sandra Rodriguez
Sergio Rodriguez
Felix Roman
Ryan Romeo



Lonis Zamora
loads food from
the Thanksgiving
food drive on the
bus to deliver to
the food pantries.

Friends clown
around at the
annual Home-
coming dance held
in the fieldhouse.



Kelly Pro struggles
against a double
team trying to steal
the ball. Crown Point
is always a tough
game for the ladies.

Lisa Ross
Maya Rothstein
Athanasios Rousis
Carey Rueckman
Eunieelle Rumph
Jennifer Ruschak
Melissa Russell
Carla Sabo

Kevin Sager
Kelly Samson
Larry Samuels
Stephanie Samuels
Melissa Sanchez
Wilton Sandifer
Katrese Sawyer
Shannon Schafer

Krystle Scholten
Theresa Sciacotta
Brandon Scott
Kristen Scott
Michael Szczurko
Joshua Seabrook
Julie Seagraves
Goran Seat

Anthony Seay
Sharon Sepulveda
Kathy Shea
Shermaine Shellby
Norman Sherwood
Stephen Sienicki
Jennifer Sierra
Chevie Simmons

Mario Sims
Keith Smiley
Aleeza Smith
Lydia Smith
Chad Snyder
Edward Solys
Thomas Sovich
Anthony Sparger

White team cheerleaders perform during a timeout at a home basketball game.



Nikia Neely paces herself as she pushes herself to place for the girls' cross country team.



A golfer attempts to chip onto the green during a home meet at Broadmoor.



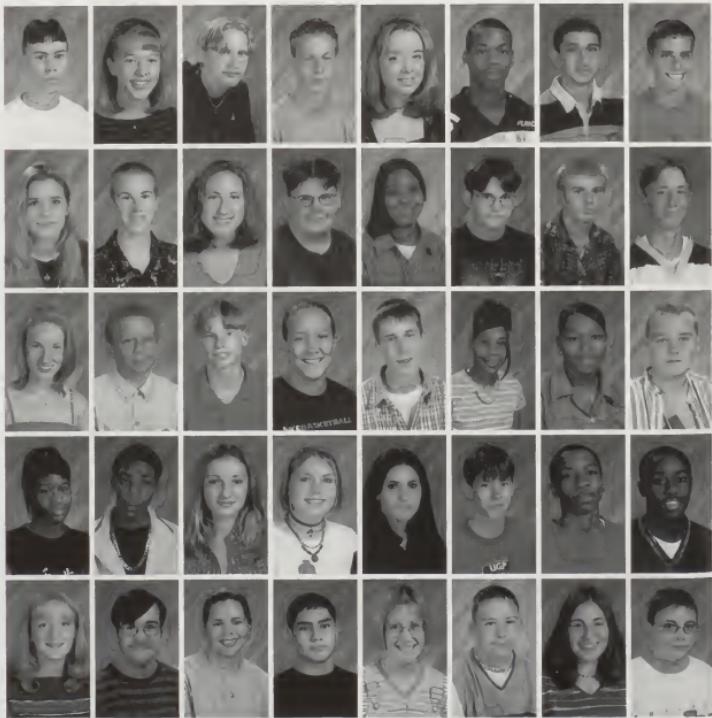
Nikola Srbiviski
Sarah Stuckert
Thomas Starkey
Thomas Stevens
Melissa Stewart
Robert Stewart
John Stojanovski
Tim Stoner

Tina Strehler
David Strom
Amy Stropic
Christopher Sullivan
Gabrielle Sunling
Stephen Summers
Jeffery Surer
Andrew Swiere

Margaret Szczesniak
Pavols Tamusaitis
Philip Tanis
Megan Ternes
Jonathan Thien
Kaleena Thomas
Sha'Tom Thompson
Darell Thrasher

Ashley Tipton
Andre Toney
Mirjana Trkilić
Genevieve Tucker
Evelyn Tyrikos
Ryan Underhill
John Upshaw
Ivan Ursery

Kristyn Vaillancourt
Matthew Valant
Sorita Valenzuela
Ned Valle
Kelly Van Der Woude
Justin Vanderkolk
Melissa Vargas
Jeffrey Vargo



CLASS OF 2002

Mark Kovacs concentrates on playing his percussion part at the winter concert.



Kryss Fleck
Plays her flute as the band practices for its coming concert.



Lisa Vartanoff
Ashley Vasutis
Marissa Vawter
Dawnie Veehey
Jessica Velez
Amanda Verdeyen
Richard Villareal
Erika Villareal



Jayson Villars
Zoran Vojnovic
April Wagonblast
Cindy Wahlman
Nathan Walker
Derek Wampler
Leah Weatherington
Derek Wermers



Marshall Wesley
Tiffany Wesley
Roy Wilbanks
Jason Wilburn
Sarina Wilkerson
Brandon Williams
Byron Williams
Carlette Williams



Cathy Williams
Jason Williams
Kevin Williams
Reginald Williams
Selena Williams
Amy Wilson
Gregory Winn
Timothy Wurtz



Brandon Wise
Christopher Wisner
Erin Wolfe
Michelle Wood
Teresa Woynaroski
Stephanie Wusik
Brian Yack
Craig Zaremba



Jennifer Zarik
Brian Zydch

Casady Pruitt relaxes on the court. She has played tennis with her family since she was little.



Competing ATHLETE ON A NEW LEVEL

Not only was she an ace in the class room, but she soared on the court also. Casady Pruitt held a 4.0 grade average and played on the Pirate tennis team. She might only be a freshman, but she had the composure needed to reach new heights.

"Tennis runs in my family; I have been playing since I was little," she said. Casady was also a manager for the boy's tennis team. In the summer of '99, Casady competed in a tournament with 120 other state players. "It was one of my proudest moments," she recalled. "I did not win, but I got really far and played my best."

This year she had the number two singles spot nailed down. She was a solid player on the girls' tennis team as a freshman.

Hanging out with friends and going shopping were some of her favorite things to do. Casady also loved to listen to her favorite boy bands, and she never missed an episode of *Friends* or *Dawson's Creek*.

Casady enjoyed her first year at MHS. "It is pretty much what I expected, but friends change. People change." Hopefully, when tennis comes around, we won't see too much change in her dedicated attitude.



Casady Pruitt
returns a volley.
She played number
two singles.



Idris Abdul-Hafiz
Jeffrey Abrego
Christopher Adams



Christopher Agme
Cory Alder
Patrick Alexander



Taiwan Alford
Christine Aloia
Taneshia Amey



Nicholas Andreatos
Jacob Appleton
Emeka Arize



Ryan Armstrong
Casey Arviso
Kwame Asabere



Jeremiah Ashe
Brian Ashford
Daniel Avery



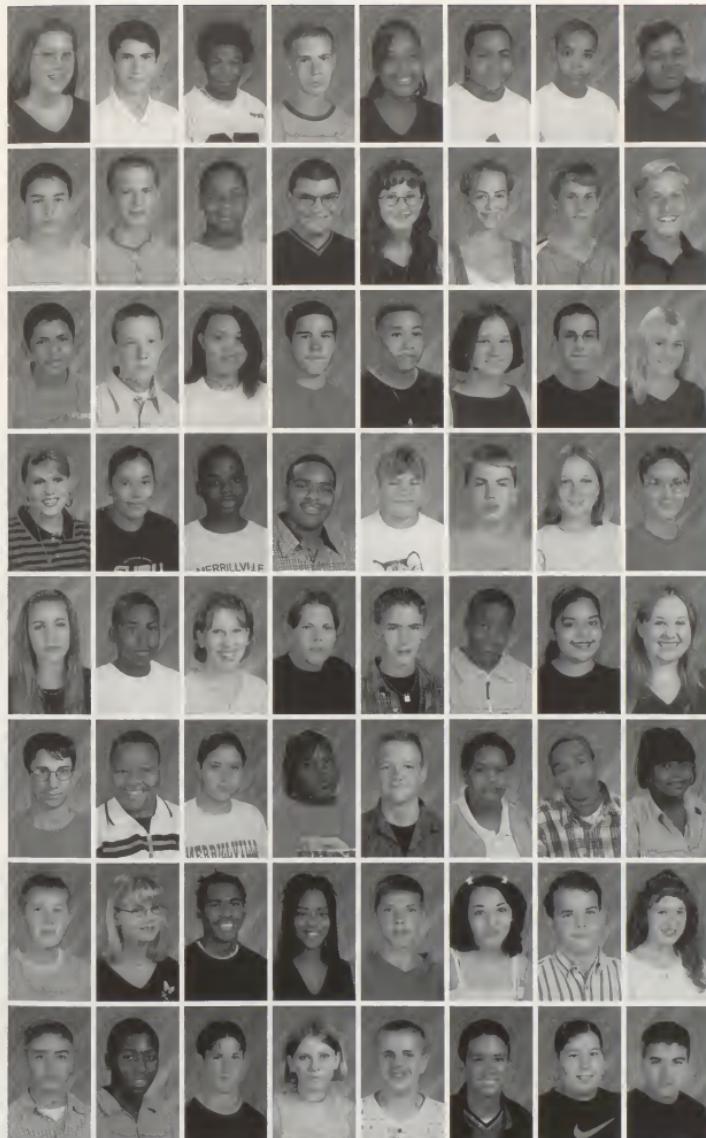
Arcenio Avila
Shannon Ayers
William Bailey



Alan Balich
Timothy Balko
William Bandy



CLASS OF 2003



Allison Bauser
Christopher Barbaudi
Diranell Barnes
Caleb Bateman
Kamika Battle
Dana Bellard
Eugene Bellmon
Robyn Berry

Michael Berta
Kyle Beshears
Paul Best
Joshua Biamardi
Nicole Bielak
Stephanie Bigelow
James Bishop
Ryan Bishop

Miguel Blanco
Brian Boksa
Brandy Booker
Heath Boone
William Boyd Radford
Aubrey Bramard
Peter Brasovan
Shawna Breitenstein
Samantha Breneman
Joce-fina Bridges
Sylvester Brooks Jr.
Leon Brown Jr.
Shawna Brown
Patrick Buck
Amanda Budde
Anthony Bukovac

Cynthia Bulanda
Demetrio Burnett
Molly Burt
Michael Busch
Jared Byczko
Steven Campbell
Domenica Campos
Sarah Cardwell

Jonathan Carter
Jeffery Champion
Jacqueline Chavelas
Alesia Clinton
Gary Clark
Jennifer Clark
Shawn Clark
Tameshia Clark

Aaron Clemens
Jennifer Coates
Martin Cole
Tristen Congress
Brenton Connally
Jennifer Cooper
Todd Cooper
Cassidie Cordell

Rafael Corona
LeDaniel Cotton
David Coughlin
Amanda Cousins
Philip Craft
Brian Cruz
Maribel Cruz
Carlos Cuadra

CLASS OF 2003

Mrs. Steinfeld's sixth period English 9 class waits for the bell to ring. Steven Sumichrast begins to get out his assignment.



David Rooda helps stock the bus with canned food items. These donations went to the food pantry.



Kristina Curtis
Gulie Dahn
Nicholas Dallas
Kristina Damjanoska
Jarret Darling
Elisha Davis
Karen Davis
Jared Dawson



Denid Dean
Jose Delacruz
Maria DeReal
Nicole Demense
Shannon Deutsch
Joshua Diaz
Joshua Diehl
Frederick Dohry



Aaron Doeing
Angela Doeing
Bradley Dow
Steven Doxas
Julius Drake
Britne Druckemiller
Aubler Duff
Jennifer Duggins



James Dulaney
Melissa Duttweiler
Kevin Dwyer
Jacob East
Matthew Eckstrom
Krystal Edgington
Leroy Edmonds
Wessum ElOmar



Joshua Elam
Joi-Lyn Eller
Nina Ellinger
Dane Equihua
Rebecca Evans
Jeanette Fabian
Michelle Farley
Kevin Farmer





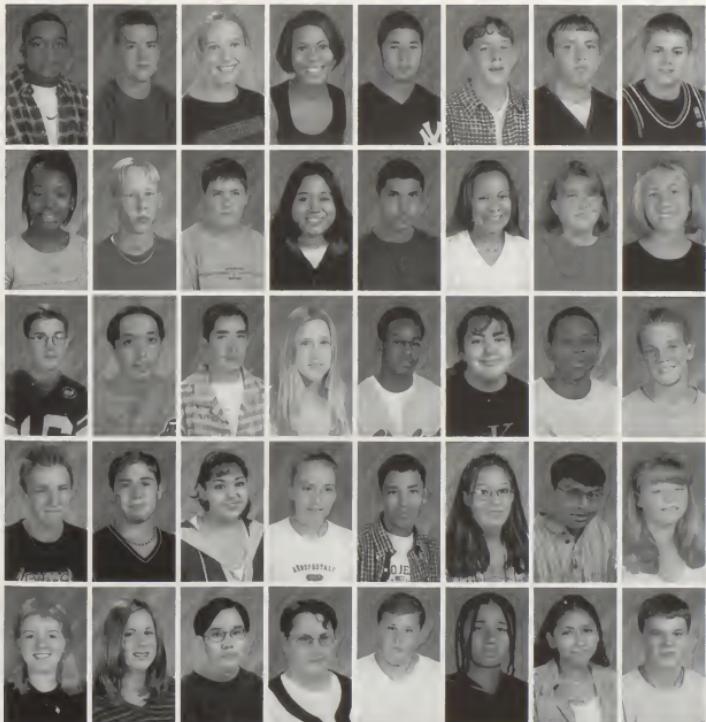
Both these teammates are working together to defend against their opponents scoring a point.



K
Katie Tanis strikes a pose to end her floor exercise. Tanis is one of three freshmen to compete at State.



Mari Cole chases the ball down the field keeping it away from the other team.



Rufe Feagin
Todd Ferguson
Gaitlin Floyd
Alyssia Forney
Luke Francis
David Frank
Joseph Frasca
Brian Fravel

Jannise Frazier
Donnie Freeman
Michael Frost
Lindsey Gabriel
Nicholas Garcia
Dominique Garibay
Cassandra Garner
Elizabeth Gallimatti

Jason Gary
Anthony Garza
Christopher Garza
Janet Gates
Marc Gates
Christina Georgevich
Jon-Pierre Gibbons
Robert Gilmore

Alan Gimia
Clifford Colon
Cynthia Gonzalez
Krystal Gonzalez
Michael Gonzalez
Brandy Grace
Daniel Graf
Emily Graun

April Graves
Cora Gray
Derek Greenburg
Kristopher Greene
Steve Grezovski
Daniel Griffith
Sophia Guardiola
Stuart Guernsey

Freshmen wait for a ride after school. Later in the year, students were told they couldn't wait hours for their rides.

The nurse accepts the doctor's hat and coat in "Harvey," the Dramatic Society's fall play.



Jared Byczko works on his project in Art teacher Terry Pratt's class; many freshmen took art.

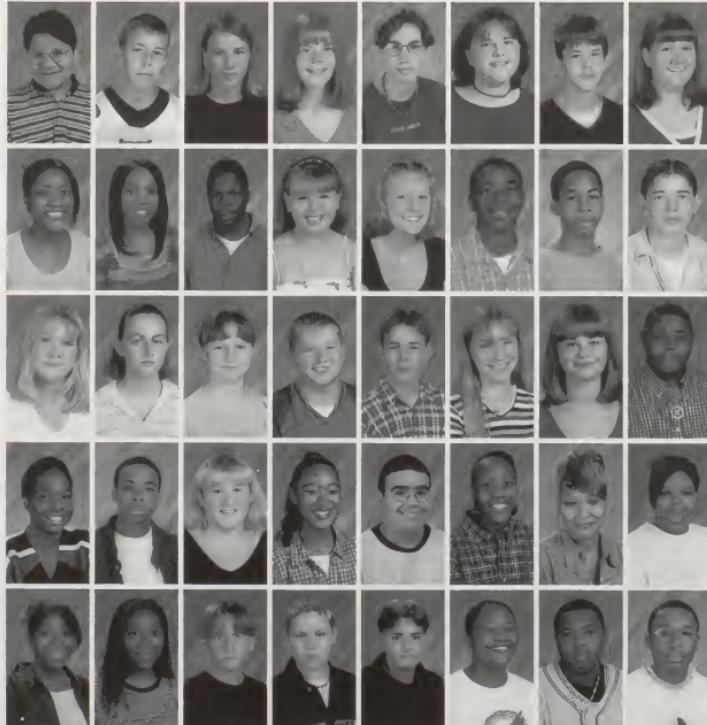
Christopher Gutierrez
Jonathan Gutierrez
Jaclyn Hae
Abby Hacker
Christopher Hadt
Kelly Haleczar
Matthew Hall
Stephanie Hall

Jarrell Hamilton
Damara Hamlin
Lawrence Hargrove
Celia Haro
Danielle Harriman
James Harris
Raphael Harris
Patrick Harstad

Krystal Harter
Amber Hauber
Sharon Hawkins
Bryan Head
Aaron Hebert
Angela Hedger
Jennifer Heidler
Jamarri Henderson

Joel Henderson
Demetrios Henley
Sabrina Hennessy
Dominique Henry
Jacob Hernandez
Shalonda Hicks
Danielle Hill
Ingrid Hinkle

Carmellia Hinton
Schmekia Hinton
Matthew Hirjak
Trevor Hodges
Timothy Holley
Deanna Howard
Michael Howard
Kevin Hubbard



CLASS OF 2003



Brittany Williams shows her strength at the Portage Dual Meet. Williams was a key part in the varsity team's success.



Ryan Kueck and Megan Huess wait for the bell signalling the end of lunch and the beginning of study period.



Mark Huber
Diane Hughes
Megan Hullburt
Christopher Humes
Ebonye Hunter
Carl Hurd
Kathleen Hyzy
Dana Izzi



Henry Jackowski III
Kyle Jackson
Tanesha Jackson
TeNita Jamison
Nikolce Janakieski
Nikisha Jefferson
Christopher Jeter
Mykah Johnson



Parker Johnson
Jacleen Joiner
Krystal Jones
Joseph Jordan
Brian Josten
Adam Jovanovich
Dikah Joyner
Ernest Joyner



Damien Julkes
James Kelley
Jessica Kelly
Sarah Kennedy
Anthony Keown
Donovan Kepchar
Cory Kesler
Eugene Kezy



Gelesta Kimble
Shanman Kimbrough
Nakesha King
Kimberly Kish
Shane Klar
Anthony Klippl
John Kuezevich
Jeannette Koon

CLASS OF 2003

Matthew Krysa
Ryan Kueik
Paul Kureynski
James Kuzminski
Sheryl Kwoll
Daniel Kwiakowski
Bradley Lake
Geoffrey Lafie



Paulo Laorden
Rick Lawson
Darryl Lax
Ronte Lee
Andrew Leicht
Joseph Leloup
James Lennon
James Leonard



Adam Lewis
Jerven Lewis
Zerubbelorl Lewis
Jacqueline Lipski
Paul Littleton
Daniel Lopez
Mary Kate Lucas
Crystal Lumpkin



Kara Lux
Michael Mable Jr.
Demetria Mabon
Daniel Madura
Naomi Magallan
Emily Mandich
Kellie Mann
Kimberly Mann



Steven Marcus
Gary Marek
Joscelyn Marquis
Michaela Martin
Yvonne Martinez
Demetria Massengill
Eye Matezak
Michelle Mathewson



Destiny Mathis
Crystal Matson
Billy McBride
Courtney McGarty
Rebecca McGarty
Heather McCoy
Desiree McDaniel
William McGhee



Armanda McIntire
Jamie McLaughlin
Lauren Meliodon
Kevin McMullin
Ashley McNeil
Melissa McManinch
Jayson Mejia
Patricia Mersot



Kevin Mestrovich
Donnie Metlowski
Dammen Mikuly
Constantine Mileos
Nicholas Mileos
Brandon Miller
Mallorie Mitchell
Joice Mizimakoski



lorem ipsum dolor sit amet,
consectetur adipisic elit, sed diam
nonummy nibh euismod tincidunt ut



Noel Mojica
Baldemar Montemayor
Carl Montgomery



Amanda Moor
Michael Moore
Ricardo Moreno



Nicole Morales
Eric Morris
Keith Murphy III



Nicole Murphy
Tara Murphy
Sean McGrants



Vangel Nucovski
Matthew Niedolski
Alisha Nulls



Tianna Nash
Arlinda Nava-McCain
Claudia Nava-McCain



Robert Ryan Nava
Monique Navarro
Raymond Neely



Brian Nienhuis
Eric Nokan
Jason Nyongani



Condition STAYING IN TO PLAY SOCCER

Jon Gutierrez was known for his fun and amusing personality. He loved to make people laugh and to have fun. If you saw him walking down the hallway you always saw him with a smile on his face or making a joke about someone else.

Jon played soccer and ran track. He loved to play indoor and outdoor soccer. He was a starter for the JV team. He said his best memories of the season were playing jokes on other teammates especially in the locker room. They all remembered the trick they played on Nicola.

Jon ran track to condition himself for soccer season. He ran the 1/2 mile, 1 mile and 2 mile. He ran well this year and improved his times greatly.

When Jon came to MHS, he expected it to be much different. He said, "I expected to get beat up by all the older and bigger kids." He liked high school much better than middle school. He said that there was better food here, and that lunch was definitely his favorite time of the school day. He also liked getting to pick his classes and taking some "blow off" classes.



Gutierrez enjoys
laughing and telling
jokes with friends.



Jon Gutierrez runs
track to keep in
shape for his love,
soccer.

CLASS OF 2003

Dale Skulpa
Shannon Deutsch, and Andy Troupos look to see who's taking pictures during study period.

Pauline Petrucci nears the finish of the girl's cross country meet.



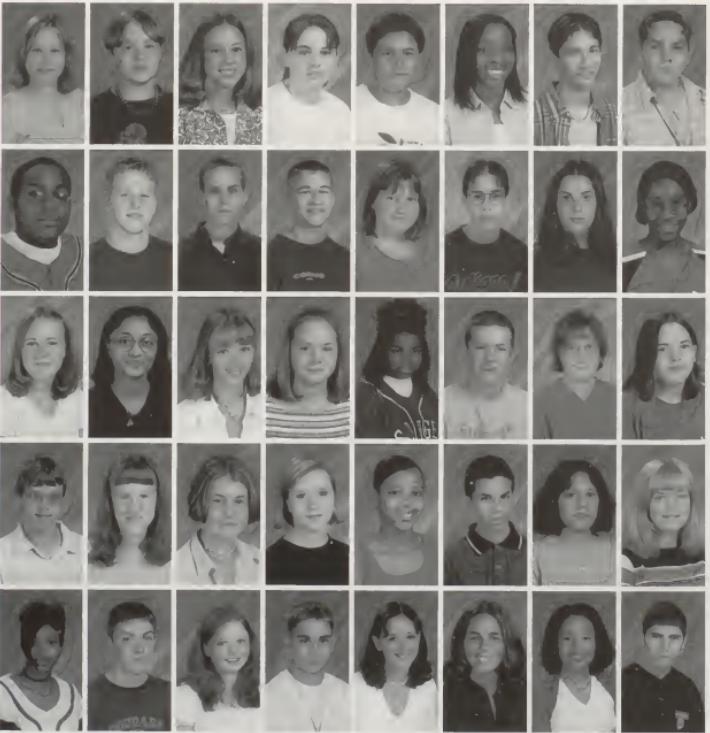
Kathryn O'Brien
Jason O'Hearn
Kelly O'Keefe
Kristina Ojleska
Noyan Hasan Okum
Adaku Onyeeka
Jaime Ortiz
Ray Ortiz

William Overall
Clase Overbeke
Pierce Overbeke
Daniel Padberg
Kristen Padgett
Jesus Palomo
Angela Papamihalakis
Lamoneica Parker

Felicia Parks
Nisha Patel
Nicole Patterson
Megan Pawl
Jessica Peete
Cole Perkins
Christina Peschke
Nicolle Petit

Patrick Petrovich
Pauline Petrucci
Amy Petty
Heather Philippe
Michele Phillips
Chad Pierce
Jennifer Ponce
Jill Porter

Katrina Portis
Aaron Powell
Rachel Powers
David Prentoski
Kate Prentoski
Casady Pruitt
Tiairra Ragulen
Glen Ramirez





Ciro Ramos III
Treyana Ramos
Pedro Rangel
Jennifer Reid
Vince Reeves
Lisette Renta
Igor Ristevski
Deanna Rivera



Julia Romnes
Mark Roberts
Melissa Robinson
Raikesha Robinson
Tracy Robinson
Tynisha Roly
Breon Rodgers
Jeremiah Rodriguez



Julia Rodriguez
Vanessa Rodriguez
Chad Rogers
Tara Rogers
Derek Roldan
David Rooda
Christopher Ross
Elizabeth Rund



Antonio Sablan
Ashley Sak
Nicole Salas
Nicole San Miguel
Jessica Sanchez
Kate Santeramo
Anyveli Santos
Tito Savage



Amanda Savka
Kristina Schoenecker
Theresa Schubert
Zachary Scott
Dyann Segvich
Patrice Selmon
Sharon Shapiro
Kimberly Shapley



Armonie Shelby
Daniel Sierra
Vangel Sikoski
Amanda Simpson
Michael Simpson
Sean Simpson
Justin Singer
Dale Skolka



Jennifer Sliwka
Darius Smith
Jessie Smith
Kaye Smith
Matthew Smith
Tiffany Smith
John Snelling
Sean Schacki



Veronica Solivais
Laura Sopko
Aleksandar Sotiroski
David Spalaris
Nicole Sparger
Mark Spurlock
Kenny Stanziano
Fontaine Stegall

Steven Sunichrast
takes one last look
at his assignment
for his English 9
class before the bell
rings.

The Velveteens
perform a song at
the annual Christmas
Concert in
Reinhart Auditorium.



After the first
couple of days,
freshmen navigate
the halls without
panic about getting
lost.

Rebecca Stephen
Lora Sterley
Adam Stetson
Jacob Stewart
Christopher Stickels
Anthony Stofko
Brittney Stoica
Matthew Stone

Anthony Stouff
Anna Strange
Aimee Street
Eric Street
Lauren Strom
Cast Strong
Samantha Sullivan
Steven Sunichrast

Jamie Sweeney
Kelly Swickard
Meagan Sylva
Shannon Szala
Kathleen Szot
Katie Tanis
Richard Tants
Anthony Taylor

Ashly Taylor
James Teamer
Adam Tegtmeyer
Paul Terrelonne
Christopher TerDoes
Sarah Thomas
Jacob Thorpe
Jeanna Throw

James Tolhuzen
Lee Torrence
Vincent Torres
Jeffrey Trama
Christopher Trapane
Julie Trumble
Andrew Troupes
Shaina Tucker



CLASS OF 2003



Katie Tanis strikes a pose in her floor routine. She was one of three freshman gymnasts to compete at the State Meet.



Resting a minute between dances, friends take the time to chat at the annual Valentine's Dance.



Gaudae Turner
Ryan Turner
Turribiates
Christine Uzelac
Kylie Vafiadis
Angelica Valdez
Ariane Valdez
Sara Valdez

Jeton Valentin
Christopher Vargas
Laura Vaughn
John Vazquez
Jonathan Vergiu
Anthony Wachholz
Charles Wade II
Michael Wadley

Brandon Waldrop
Kenneth Walker
Cheri Walls
Nicholas Walter
Desiree Ward
Lindsay Wartus
Shawn Watson
Melissa Watson

Wanricha Wattanapha
Rodney Waxton
Joshua Werth
Patrick Westbury
Martell White
Jessica Wiencke
Adrian Williams
Brittany Williams

Bryan Williams
Chantese Williams
Dontreual Williams
Tera Williams
Lindsey Wills
Davriana Wilson
Brittany Wilgen
Clint Wimmen

Waticha Wathanapha participates in an end of the year dance at her school in Thailand where she was in kindergarten. In Thailand students are in kindergarten for three years.



LEAVING Thailand FOR A NEW HOME

Imagine being nine years old and moving to a country where you didn't even know the language.

For Waticha Wathanapha, whose friends called her Lynn, this was a reality. She said, "I didn't know how to speak English when I moved here. I only knew the alphabet and easy words like: eat, hat, eat, etc."

Her family moved to Merrillville when her dad had a job transfer. Now he works in Chicago.

She went back to Thailand last summer to visit relatives for the first time in about five years. She said it felt good. Lynn explained, "I love Thailand. Thailand is very hot. It has many pretty buildings and temples. It also has many more cars."

She added, "My relatives visit me every year - different ones though." While they visited, her family showed them the sights of the United States, like Sears Tower in Chicago.

Lynn said that her favorite subject was math because "it is easy when you understand it." However, she found Social Studies to be more difficult because "it's hard for me to remember dates and names." Someday, she hopes to be a doctor.



Lynn poses outside a restaurant on a visit last summer.



Freshman Shaina Tucker wants to ride down Broadway way on a float during the Homecoming Parade.

Spanish students hang out at Spanish teacher Mary Ann Bertram's door. Bertram's first year Spanish classes are full of freshmen.



Élexus Wise
Amanda Wojsyńska
Kara Wood

Brianna Woods
Candice Woods
John Woods Jr.

Bradley Woodward
Chandra Wright
Jesse York

Brian Zelisko
Jessica Zimmerman
Ryan Zurek



Pictured STUDENTS NOT

SENIORS

Jennifer L. Abrego- Chor 9; Peer Helper 11; Eugene Ariviere- Soccer 10
Kelly Arroyo- Edward Barksdale- COE 12 Armond Baskin- Basketball 10,11,12; Football 9,10. Timothy Blakey- Basketball 12; Track 11,12
Kelly Bowen- NHS 11,12; Swimming 9,10,11,12; Track 9,10; Volleyball 9,10,11,12
Dana Nicole Bozeman- chor 9; Track 9,10. Josh Bradley- Building Trades 11,12. Munro A. Bravo- Cross Country 9; Track 11,12; Wrestling 9
Anthony C. Brown- Chor 11,12; Revue 11,12; Gospel Chor 11,12. Shaduek Sean Brown- Band 9,10,11,12; Football 12; French Club 11,12; Jazz Impact 12; Pep Band 9,10,11,12. Renee V. Bryant- 9,10,11,12; Pep Band 9,10,11,12; PNN 9,10,11,12; Prom Committee 12; Science Olympiad 11,12; SADD 9,10,11,12; Student Government 12; Thespian Officer 9,10; W.I.T. 9,10,11,12. F. Joseph Buda- Teachers Aide 12. Robin Coffy- Tennis 12. Chris Conn- Football 9; HERO 12; Track 9. Maden Copil- Nicholas Anthony Coren- Golf 9; NHS 11,12; Tennis 9,10,11; Tennis Captain 12. Elizabeth Anne Crotzer- Chorus 9,10,11,12; CPC 9,10,11,12; FCA 10; Homecoming Court;Co-Captain 12; Homecoming Court(Basketball) 10,11; Key Club 9; PNN 10; Prom Queen 11; Revue 10,11; Show Choir 11,12; Spring Musical 10,12; Teacher's Aide 12; Vocal Tones 11,12; WMHS Productions 10. Carl Dawyne Ervin Jr. Jamie Escobedo- Chor 9,10; NHS 11,12. Brandon Hanley- Basketball 9. Carri Hansbury- Environmental Club 9,10; Natural Helpers 12; Prom Committee 11; Teachers Aide 9; Peer Mediator 10,11,12. Bryan Harbour- PNN 12; WMHS Productions 12; Synthesizer(Music) 12. Daniel Hicks- Cheerleading 12. Beth Hirjak- Band 9,10; Environmental Club 10; Guest Club 9. Steven Michael James Jr.- Football 11,12. Bruce Aaron Janda, Sharnee Johnson- Natural Helpers; Prom Committee 11; Prom Court 11, SADD 10; SADD Officer 11,12; Teacher's Aide 10,11,12; W.I.T. 11,12; Inspirational Chor 12. Larry Den Jack Jorgensen Jr.- Band 9,10,11,12. Environmental Club 9,10; Wrestling 9. Cynthia Kuralbosos, Mike Ben Krenzynski, Michael Krolewski- Basketball 12. Stephanie Despina Kruikas, Kewin Mabon- Band 9,10,12. DuShawn D.A. McDonald, Eric Meeks, Nicole Nino Mingo, Mike Mitchell- Basketball 9; Football 9,10,11,12; HERO 12. Christopher Moore- Basketball 10. William Neely, Krystal Newton, Phillip O'Boy- Baseball 9,11,12; Baseball Captain 12. Basketball 9,10; Football 9,10,12. Konnie Dayan Pace- HERO 12; Spanish Club 11, SADD 11; Student Government 10; Track 9,10. Terri Peak- Chor 9,10,11; Football 9,10,11; Revue 9,10; Science Olympiad 10; Track 9,12. Johnny S. Pelyoyer- Teacher's Aide 12. Montreal D. Person- SADD 11,12; Teacher's Aide 10; Track 9,10,11,12; W.I.T. 12; Track Captain 12. Tony Petrowski- Band 9,10. Je-Gori Pickett- Randolph Radenkovic, Orn Regalado- Office Aide 11; Guest Club 12; Student Government 12. Rounnie Rice, Brian Rose, Dinesh Samuel- Band 9,10. Ed Sathott, Ray T. Shaffer- Football 9; HERO 11. Tiffany Siggers, Ernest M. Sroczynski II, Paul Todomski- Soccer 9,10,11,12. Joseph Torres, Daniel John Vadas, Goran Vodvodic- Swimming 9; Volleyball 9. Jana Kristin Wagles, Kristin Betty Weigl- Key Club 9. Benito White, Dennis L. Wynn Jr., Ralph Williams- Drama Club 11,12; Drama Club Officer 12; Fall Play 12; Football 11,12; Newspaper 12; Prom Court 11; Revue 11,12; Show Chor 10,11,12; Spring Musical 11,12; Thespian Officer 12; Vocal Tones 11,12. Jamie A. Winfield- Chor 9; Newspaper 12; SADD 12; Tennis 10; W.I.T. 12; Peer Mediation 10. Frank F. Woszczynski, Jennifer Ellen Yigo- Academic Decathlon Team 12; Drama Club 11,12; Fall Play 11; NHS 11,12; Pep Rota 9,10; PNN 9,10; Speech Team 10,11,12; Swimming 9,10; Spring Play Director 11.

JUNIORS

Gabrielle Baldwin- Whitney Lake
Clyde Barnes- Jessica Malis
Thomas Castel- Billy Meadows
Urie Chance- Ryan Midkiff
Christopher Conn- Billy Morgan
Richard Garcia- Veronica Ramirez
Athena Guerero- Kathy Shaeffer
Technikou Ibeke- Israel Toledo
Donald Jones- Alicia Valdez
Nichole Kempa- Rebecca Wells

SOPHOMORES

Shavon Bannister- Lamika Lewis
Katie Beville- Nakisha Lones
Desilises Blakemore- Michael Manenso
Enola Boyd/Radford- Eugene Manuel
Erica Brown- Manuel Mendez
Ryan Charleston- Michael Morawski
Justin Creech- Tommy Phifer
Rickie Donaldson- Leonel Portes
Nicole Engle- Denna Roberts-Gonzalez
Johnmatha Hallbert- Michael Rohrison
Catherine Johnson- Sean Rosecky
Nitsisha Jones- Joko Sipkarov
Joshua Kester- Brandon Strange
Brett Kronicke- Paris Turner
Kim Kustic- John Wilson
Stephen Lenker Jr.

FRESHMEN

Michael Anderson- Christian McMillon
Jonathan Barcinski- Brandon Mitchell
Fred Biancardi- Joseph Quenett
Raunon Bravo- Krystol Roberts-Gonzalez
David Degard II- Jonathan Smith
Jason Gibson- Jonathan Starkey
Jennifer Griffin- Povillas Timosutis
Ashley Halperin- Lauren Tokar
Nichole Handley- Vanessa Valdez
David Jimenez- Antoine Young
Lacey Kernes- Jennifer Zaiko
Wade McKinley

Looking across the room, English teacher John Lamberse makes a comment to his students. Naturally, the comment was sarcastic.



Teaching CREATING HIS OWN STYLE

John Lamberse, known to his students as "Mr. L," brought his unique style of teaching to Merrillville High School just three years ago. He grew up in Portage with an older brother who tortures him even to this day.

Mr. L attended Purdue Calumet where his major was English, and his minor was history. He started out wanting to be a history teacher, but discovered there were more jobs available in English departments.

He had a special philosophy when it came to teaching. Most students agreed that his humorous yet sarcastic behavior made his classroom different from most others. He said that he liked to try to have the students enjoy being in class because then they would want to learn. Rob Hemphill '00, said, "He doesn't treat you like a student; he treats you like a friend." However, he did grade toughly so the students might not have been happy when they got their test papers back.

Mr. L wanted his students to, "Live the life that you want to live. Find the good things in life and focus on those." He said not to take things for granted and to enjoy high school because in five years they would be wishing they could come back.

Camera shy Mr. L is taken by surprise at his desk.



Lamberse points out a place on the map for the students.



Jennifer Albano, LRE Facilitator
Cheryl Albers, Sociology
Beverly Ambrozink, Business/
History



Janet Anderson, Art
William Angelidis, Science
Darren Arberry, Dean of
Students



Joe Atria, Science
Tom Bainbridge, School Board
Member
Michelle Barker, Science



Betty Lou Barsley-Murra,
Family and Consumer Sciences
Amy Beckham, Assistant Athletic
Director
Rob Bedwell, History and
Alternative School



Michael Bertoli, Assistant
Superintendent for Curriculum and
Personnel
Mary Ann Bertram, Foreign
Language
Tammy Blink, Aide



Wade Boice, Math
John Bradford, Music
Al Branda, Math



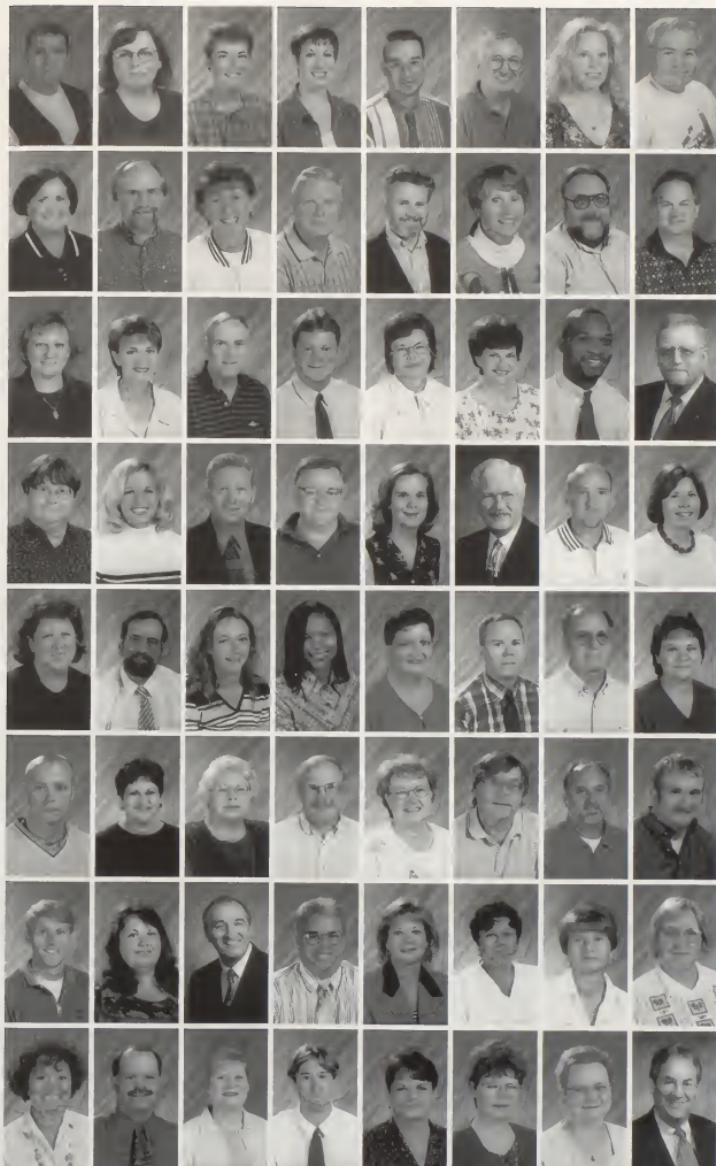
Doris Brown, Work Study Aide
Joy Brown, Music
Jana Bryant, Security



Charles Carroll, LRE Facilitator
Vivien Carter, English
Tammy Gathier, Aide



FACULTY



Ryan Cartwright, Art
Linda Christoff, Computer Labs
Mary Clay, Music
Andrea Clinkenbeard, Science
Jeffrey Clinkenbeard, Science
James Dailey, Industrial Arts
Amy Davis, Music
Daniel Denison, Security

Nancy Draper, Math
Miles Dunsoncube, Science
Lori Dust, P. E.
James East, History
Richard Ebler, History/English
Dee Edgcombe, Guidance Counselor
James Edgcombe, History
Roger Ering, Music

Evelyn Ensmann, Principal
Sharon Estes, English
Tom Feeney, Math
Christopher Fields, Science
Diane Firme, English
Edie Fisher, Foreign Language
Sheldon Floyd, History
Timothy Flynn, School Board

Linda Fry, English
Jennifer Fuller, English/Quest
Drew Furness, Director of Guidance
Rick Garner, Industrial Arts
Elizabeth Gillespie, Math
Gale Goyer,
Mike Hackett, P. E.
Judy Hain, Guidance Counselor

Linda Hall, Teacher Aide
Ray Hamilton,
Courtney Hardin, English
Karita Hare, Security
Marianne Harrison, Aide
Skeeter Heath, Business
Don Hickman, Custodian
Cindy Holecot, Guidance Aide

Mike Hoffman, Math
Carol Hogan, Secretary
Jan Hughes, Business
Richard Hurley, Industrial Arts
Elaine Hydinger, Registrar
William Idzior, Math
Sherm Izsak, P.E./Fitness
Tim James, Math
James Johnston, Industrial Arts
Kathy Jones, Aide
Larry Juzwicki, Director of Security
Jerryold Kasurka, Quest/National Helpers
Shelly Kavos, Family/Consumer Sciences

Debbie Klippel, Secretary
Angie Knezevick, Custodian
Barb Koly, English

Rosellen Kozel, Work Study Coord.
Mike Krutz, Industrial Arts
Maggie Lutts, Health
John Lumbersie, English
Carol Lamprecht, Secretary
Judy LeDuce, Business
Connie Lewis, English
Mark Lucas, School Board

FACULTY

English teacher Brian Past points out an assignment to one of his students. Taking time to explain assignments is important to students.

Coach Jim East talks to his players during a time-out. Motivating kids is the key on the court and in the classroom.



Dr. Tony Lux, Superintendent of Schools

John Lynn, History

Bob Mackoyak, Industrial Arts
Sally Malinich, Guidance Counselor

Diane Mandolin, History

Marcey Mathis, English

Lee Meyer, English

Carrie Miller, English

Janice Minor, Assistant Principal

Debbie Monix, English

Sally Morgan, Science

Patrick Mulroy, History

Bonnie Nitsch, Secretary

Gail Nicolini, Math

Andrew Nitsch, Business

Deborah Onika, Science

Shirley Oregon, Treasurer

Brian Pahl, English

Maryetta Petras, Science

Deanne Pierce, Math

Greg Person, P.E.

Marsha Pierson, Receptionist

Ryan Pitcock, English

Joséfina Poropat, Foreign Language

Joe Poteet, Media Specialist

Delores Poxon, Nurse

Terry Pratt, Art

Ronald Price, Asst. Super. for Business

Tania Price, P.E.

Teresa Procter, English Newspaper

Randy Qualizza, Industrial Arts

Janis Qualizza, Athletic Director

Lisa Raftery, Foreign Language

Ceri Rainey, English Second Lang.

Shirley Renner, Guidance Counselor

Wanda Rice, Art

Caroline Richards, IRE Facilitator

Patricia (Duduk) Robison, Science

Artie Rogers, History

Scott Rosenbaum, School Board

People





Assistant Principal Dave DeMuth jots down a few notes in his office. He replaced Tom Herbert this year.

English teacher Linda Fry gives the camera a quick grin as she sips her coffee while grading those term papers.



Patti Dudak Robinson takes a moment to smile with her new husband at the Turnabout Dance.

Vicky Salyers, Secretary
Bonnie Sanders, Foreign Language
Mary Scheffer, Library Aide
Pamela Schilling, Director of Media

Services
Violet Schumuck, Math
Melanie Scott, Office Manager
Beverley Seaver, English/Drama
Mary Shoshouk, Math
Randy Smith, Science
Irene Spiro, Foreign Language
Tom Spitzer, Broadcast
Debra Staffield, Math
Craig Stafford, History
Scott Staley, Math
Margaret Stallings, Family/Consumer Sciences
Jean Stanford, English/Yearbook
Evelyn Steiner, Foreign Language
Michelle Sulich, Guidance Counselor
Melissa Tuhu, Family/Consumer Sciences
Chris Taylor, Media Specialist
Dave Teeter, Industrial Arts
David Templin, Assistant Principal
Richard Terpstra, English
Marilyn Thien, Student Services
Judy Vassallo, Secretary
James Vermillion, Science
Carol VonBehren, Family/Consumer Sciences

Matt Walker, Science
Zak Wells, History
David Werdine, LRE Facilitator
Sue Whitlock, Aide
Sally Williamson, Math
Debbie Willison, Secretary
Madeleine Wilson, Foreign Language
Michelle Wilson, LRE Facilitator
Jeff Yelton, Science
James Young, LRE Facilitator
Debbie Zellers, Secretary
Dave Zimmerman, Business



Before detailed work is performed on the actual cars, the students of Jim Johnston's auto mechanics class must spend some quality time in the classroom.

WHICH CLASS DID YOU LEARN THE MOST FROM?



"Debate helped me learn how to get my point across."

- JAMES TAYLOR, '01



"English Lit. because most, if not all, of the knowledge I obtained by attending this class I have seen used in other courses."

- MAHOGANY MEAD, '00



"French because you learn about different cultures in an interesting way."

- KAREN GRESH, '02



Laughter as well as intense concentration are revealed by these students as they work in one of the many computer labs.

Academics don't always have to focus on books. Cindy Wahlman demonstrates the importance of focus and intricacy while working on her art project.



•Leaving an impression

INTELLIGENCE

CREAK, SQUEAK - the sound of the wheels turning in your head during the impossible math test.

CLICK, CLICK, CLICK - the noise from dozens of fingers pounding on the keyboards in order to finish term papers.

BOOM! - THE sound of a mistake made on a chemistry project.

THERE WERE many sounds associated with the different academic classes. These academics helped the students become educated, well-rounded, and focused toward making an impression in the future.

EDUCATION WAS gained through various sources. Some students chose to be involved in advanced classes in order to gain a greater academic challenge. Others thrived in classes that focus on hands-on activities.

THERE WERE several classes that required students to improve their research skills with essays and term papers.

THE KNOWLEDGE obtained through an extensive education will assist students in many outlets later in life and continue to make an impression on others.

Learning to use a videocamera perched on a tripod was just one of the ways that Leonie Andereya, a visiting German student, took advantage of our technology.

—SPREAD BY TIFFANY STOCHEL AND JACOB CAMP

A group of students concentrate and helps each other to finish their activity in Jim Vermillion's physics class.

working ahead

Make a BIG difference in the classroom.

There seemed to be only one good way to skip college classes, so students in advanced classes tried to do just that. Some students began ahead of others in fourth grade as they were placed in the SCAT Program at Salk Elementary School. This was where it all began. From there on, these students took more advanced classes than the others in their class.

Math and English were offered to the underclassmen as the advanced classes. During the students' junior and senior year, they were offered Advanced Placement classes, which were meant to prepare students for the college atmosphere. These AP Classes included English, calculus, history, psychology, physics, biology, chemistry, and foreign languages.

The main advantage of these AP classes was the students were given a chance to test out of classes for college. The state took care of the cost for the math, science, and English language tests, but the others have a \$76 fee. These students

were placed in the guidance office for a minimum of three hours to put their minds to work after endless hours of cramming to prepare.

Ricky Bobos '00, felt there were a few differences between regular classes and advanced classes. "There are a lot of super nerds, and our main topics are always math problems and stuff." Ricky said he needed to take the advanced classes, "Since God gave me the brains, I might as well use them." Ricky took five AP tests. Melissa Johnston, '00, chose to take advanced classes throughout the years because she got into the SCAT Program in fourth grade. "I think I would have been repeating stuff if I would have gotten back into the regular classes.

There were many advantages to the advanced classes. These classes tended to prepare the students better for college. Fortunately, it also gave the students a chance to test out of classes for college, and surpass other students.



Mahogany Mead and Malakha Joyner work on their AP Chem lab.

The AP Calculus class gives out its share of difficult problems to the students. Jeremiah Hulbert and Jeff S. Miller use calculators and their brains to get through their assignment.



Senior Lawrence Davis begins the write-up for his work done in Rick Hurey's electronics class.

Justin Gillmore works diligently on his laboratory activity in Miles Dunscombe's AP class.



Computers can be beneficial as well as frustrating. Carolyn Sprague uses the mouse to maneuver her way around the computer's desktop.

Marie Lopez concentrates on obtaining the information he needs for his mass media class project.





The Internet class is a recent addition to those offered by the Business Department, and Nick Porzeczek uses the Web to finish a project.

teaching tech?

Computers INCREASE skills and proficiency

Technology today made a big difference in lifestyles. Many things were possible that weren't possible years ago, such as shopping and communication online. A main reason for this advancement was the computer.

Merrillville High school offered many classes to help introduce computer uses and skills to students. These classes also helped students become more familiar with computers and learn about new technology.

Many classes were offered at the basic level, such as keyboarding and computer applications. More advanced classes, like the Internet and web page design, gave students with a higher ability and more knowledge of computers an opportunity to excel.

Students were also given the chance to use the computer labs during class time to type papers and complete other research projects.

"Computers have increased students' skills because they can edit and check their work more easily," explained English teacher Rick Terpstra.

Most teachers at MHS found it beneficial to take their students to the computer labs during class. "Teachers are there if students need help, but it would be better if classes were smaller," Terpstra said. That way, teachers were able to spend more time with each student and help them become more proficient in the skills needed when working with computers.

Computers made our lives easier and opened up a whole new field of career choices from programming the computers to using them. The school corporation has made many changes to provide our school with the best technology and the computers we needed to make learning better for the students.



The Media Center offers a variety of computers for student use. Shea Street uses a computer hooked to the Internet, while Ti-Yon Ward uses one to look up information on books and research sources.



Casady Pruitt uses the computer to type a paper during English class.

— SPREAD BY LISA FASTERO

Members of the first period broadcast class work in the control room as the class does its live version of the morning announcements.

class act

Morning ANNOUNCEMENTS become a class project.

At 8:30 a.m. daily, a new bell rings. This bell signaled a major change in the format of the first period broadcast class as teacher's school-wide turned on their TV's for the morning announcements.

The student body got to know Matt Cunningham, '02; Cheryl Major, '00; Jonathan Perkins, '00; and Elena Vasilakis, '00, as the anchors of the daily newscast. Other class members spent their time doing behind the scenes tasks, such as running the cameras, the teleprompter, the switcher, or the mixer.

The daily broadcasts were done live which caused occasional errors. In spite of this, they were well received by the students who preferred watching the announcements to listening over the public address system as in the past.

Wednesday's brought a special surprise as one of the building's administrators served as guest anchor. Principal Evelyn Ensmann thought

that this was a good way for students to get to know the administrators. She took her turn anchoring on Wednesdays as well.

In addition to announcements, students learned the lunch menu and the day's weather. If time permitted, they saw video clips from the latest drama club, choir, band or orchestra event, or commercials staged by basketball coach Jim East to get more students to come to the post season games.

In the second period Beginning Broadcast class, students were taught the basics of broadcasting by teacher Tom Spitzer.

Third period brought the advanced class to the TV studio located on BC hallway off the Media Center. These students learned more complex filming and editing techniques.

Admission to all broadcast classes was by application because of limited space in the TV studio and equipment.



Achievers relax for a minute before the 8:30 a.m. bell tells teachers to tune in.



Cheryl Major and Matt Cunningham were frequent anchors for the morning announcements. On Wednesdays administrators took turns being the guest anchor.

— SPREAD BY KRISI MERSOT, MANDY KOMENDA, BLYTHE BERTOLO, AND ROSA URIBE



Josh Horvath and Matt Cunningham prepare a sports segment for their daily broadcast. It gave coaches a chance to tell the rest of the school about their teams.

Tim Radford types in the day's lunch menu and the weather report. They were daily features when time allowed.



Sarah Kelly focuses on painting a Buddha image during art class. She said she got the idea from a peace concert that she attended.

Auto shop gave many a chance to explore their love of working on cars. Students pose with the NASCAR race car that representatives from Lincoln Tech brought to show the class.





Kristopher Howard shows the difficulty of electronics. Howard chose the class because, "I knew it would help me with my college major."

being handy

Different HANDS-ON classes promote variety

Did you ever think about taking a class you couldn't sleep in? Did you ever consider a certain class a blow off? Many students thought this when they signed up for hands-on classes, such as auto shop, woods, metals, art, child development, or a foods class.

In reality, these classes were set up to help students get a better understanding of subjects that were not basic reading, writing, and arithmetic.

Courtney Smith, '01, felt photography was an easier class, "because we were told what to do, and we did it. If we messed up, we learned by our mistakes, but we saw results quicker than just waiting for a written text."

The way in which hands-on classes differed was that they were more practical than theory, and many students found that they learned quicker and grabbed concepts better.

Students at MHS were lucky to have one of the best hands-on programs in the area. Not many schools

had students who had learned how to rebuild cars, develop film, work with meters and electricity, sculpt pottery, or help maintain a child care center.

"These classes deal with the most modern and newest information. They help to introduce you to different things that might spark your interest," commented Megan Hulburt, '03, after she had taken Child Development.

Elizabeth Sullivan, '00, took auto shop "because I enjoy working on cars and getting dirty." Calvin Peacock, '00, said that in auto shop "you can be very productive and learn at the same time."

In the future, students wanted to see an improvement in hands-on classes, whether it involved more foods classes or a sign language class. Brian Rodriguez, '00, wanted MHS to "have a Martial Arts team."

In the meantime, the students were given a wide variety of interesting classes outside the traditional academic world they could get involved in.



Kristen Seagraves works on a project in the Graphic Arts department.



Even the German GAPP program students took part in hands-on classes. One student tries her hand at cake decorating.

Merrillville students not only helped the German students with their studies, but they also became their friends.

new culture

Students VISIT another country to learn culture

What did you do during your summer vacation? It probably involved getting a tan, visiting the pool, working a job, and hanging out with friends. However, some students took the opportunity to visit a foreign country during the summer.

This cultural exchange experience was a part of the Indiana University Honors Program. There was quite an extensive process to be chosen for the program. First, the students had to take a test, both written and listening, over their particular language. Then, several applications had to be filled out by the student as well as friends, teachers, and parents.

This way the people who reviewed applications would be able to see the student from many different angles. Once the students passed these stages, they were given an interview by a director of the program in English and in the foreign language.

Several students were chosen to visit various parts of Spain, France,

and Germany. They spent seven weeks there, touring the area, as well as spending some time in the classroom.

Katie Punmea, '00, stayed in Burjassot, a small town outside of Valencia, Spain. She was able to visit many museums, cathedrals, and some bullfights.

The experience changed the lives of all students involved. "I came back from Spain a somewhat different person. Now, I am more confident, mature, and responsible," said Punmea.

The GAPP Program also allowed several German students to visit Merrillville for two weeks. Students taking German as a foreign language provided housing for those students and helped them grow accustomed to the different sights, sounds, foods, and activities that the United States had to offer.

The foreign exchange program gave much opportunity to experience life in another country.



A German student takes advantage of the school's TV studio technology.



While hard at work, a German student still displays his contentment by flashing a genuine smile. The GAPP students visited many sites around the area, but they were still required to participate in the classroom.

— SPREAD BY TIFFANY STOCHEL



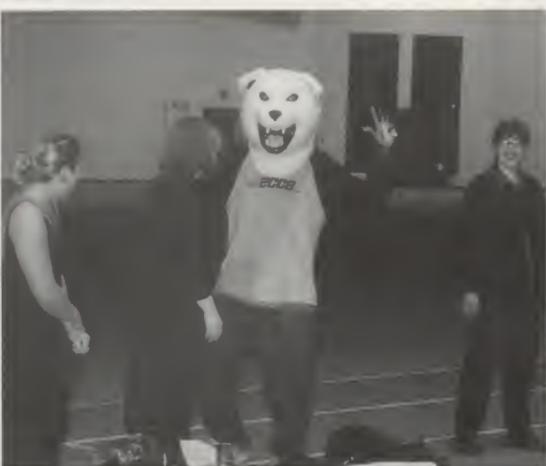
Dan Vadas and Kandice Stanford generously give up some class time to help one of the German students.

Teacher Maggie Stallings assists a German student in learning about an aspect of Family and Consumer Sciences.



In the main gym, a comedian talks to the students about being successful and managed to crack a few jokes here and there to keep their interest.

Dance instructors speak to students in the field house. Mike Ford volunteers to demonstrate a few moves of his own.



David Mesarch and Matt Cunningham accompany Allison Rosati and Warner Saunders at the Channel 5 news station.

school work

Learning about CAREERS
helps students plan ahead

Students explored their options on Career Day. Career Day and job shadowing opportunities were very helpful to MHS students.

The basis of Career Day and job shadowing was to give students the option to listen to speakers and actual people in the career fields that they were interested in. The students learned the pros and cons of their specific career choices.

Some students learned that the job they had chosen was right for them, while others changed their minds completely after learning what the job consisted of.

In some cases, it even gave students the chance to explore a career that had never necessarily even crossed their minds.

Joe Gregory, '01, explained about Career Day. "It opened my eyes to different options in my fu-

ture." Whereas, Brandi Lewis, '00, said that during job shadowing, pediatrics and pharmaceuticals were not exactly what she expected. "The experience was good for learning, and I know that is not the field I want to go into now."

Job shadowing really offered the students a hands-on experience about a career. Tara Mayersky, '00, actually sat in on a murder trial. Although she got to participate in an interesting aspect of this type of job, she wasn't sure this was the direction she wanted to go. "I'm not sure—it really interested me, but scared me at the same time."

While some students saw Career Day as a break from school, others still managed to fill that day with some educational practices and enjoyed learning something new about some interesting career fields.



AFBI agent speaks to students about job requirements on Career Day.



Law enforcement is a tough and stressful job, and a police officer tries to make students aware of that fact as he talks to them in the band room.

— SPREAD BY MARYANN FOTIS

Although not doing an actual research project, Vangel Sikoski spends time making up a test, which is also an important part of school.

looking deeper

Spending TIME is essential for a research project

Moundville High School offered students the choice of taking research classes. Some examples of these were Advanced Composition and Tech Prep English. There were many reasons students decided to take classes of research nature. While some students took them for college preparation, others took them because of graduation requirements.

For example, Dan Dyer said that he took Advanced Composition "to improve my writing skills for college." Still others like Ashley Cak decided to take Advanced Composition because it was required to get the academic honors diploma.

"A class like this teaches a student how to write a term paper, to recognize and understand connotation, logical fallacies and to write expanded paragraphs," said Advanced Composition teacher Connie Lewis.

Advanced Composition taught students how to use library sources

and how to distinguish their own words and ideas from someone else's. Carole Holtz said, "It also makes you get organized and become more responsible."

Tech prep classes also prepared students for college and taught them how to research information.

Tech Prep teacher Rick Terpstra believed that Tech Prep was a more "practical" type of writing class. One project example was a paper assigned on a personal problem. The student researched how to go about solving this problem.

Vincent Romero, '01, said, "It's a very good class and has helped my writing ability."

Research classes were beneficial if the students chose to put the time and effort into the preparation of writing their term papers. This experience showed the students where their writing abilities needed extra work and practice before their college classes suffered.



Caitlyn Presley uses her time wisely when deciding on a research topic.



Whether it is interesting or not, the work has to be done. Jenny Strom puts some thought and hard work into her class project.

— SPREAD BY AMANDA LAVIOLETTE AND MARYANN FOTIS



It always helps to have a friend to help supply ideas when researching a subject. Lindsey Mysliwiec and Nick Wardrip work together on their assignment.

The computer is often very helpful when completing a research project. Carri Hansbury makes use of a computer in the Media Center.

Dressed up to impress, Nick Porzeczek, Josh McHay, Marvin Smith, and Chris Chamberlain flash their smiles during the Senior Breakfast.

moving forward

Class of 2000 leaves
ITS own impression

Chicken patty for breakfast? It seemed like an awkward choice to many, but for this year's seniors it was part of the menu at the Senior Breakfast. This annual event also included the famous drive around, where all their friends piled into one car and showed off in front of all the underclassmen. The money collected from the tickets was used for the Class of 2000 fund.

Breakfast kicked off at the regular school time, later for the few standing in line, and concluded with the drive around. After a mere 3 hours at school, the seniors took off for a day with their friends.

During the breakfast, seniors were served their breakfast and socialized with their friends. At last it was time for the senior awards. Our class voted for the winners of best dressed, most athletic, most likely to succeed, and the list goes on.

After the awards were handed out, the senior video was played. The tape was one of the longest ever pro-

duced, due to the large involvement of the senior class. Many pictures were contributed making an excellent video.

The senior magazine was also given out. The wills were due in March in order to be ready for the breakfast.

During the drive-around, Merrillville Police were on the sidelines making sure everything went smoothly. Seniors drove around the school once as they honked their horns, sang to their music, and yelled to the underclassmen standing by.

Baccalaureate was held on the Sunday before Commencement. Baccalaureate was held at Zion AME in Merrillville. Speakers there included Shannon Peterson, Aaron Kesler, Jennifer Yugo, Ray Keilman, and Josh Gaboian.

The band and the choir were also present. The priest who attended also gave a sermon. To all who were present, this experience was truly something to remember.



Candice Gillespie receives her senior award for "Best Dressed."



With the wheels of his car squealing and producing smoke for all to see, Jeremy Robertson drives Ricky Bobos and Neil Kuntz through the parking lot during the Senior Drive Around.

— SPREAD BY ALLISON HERI AND TIFFANY STOCHEL; TIFFANY STOCHEL AND DAVID MESARCH



The cafeteria offered a wide variety of food during the Senior Breakfast, and this group of friends seemed to enjoy the food as well as the time to socialize.



The drive around also gave this group of girls the chance to proclaim themselves the "BHC," an inside joke which they renamed the "Beautiful Happy Chicks."

After receiving his award from Ray Keilman, Rick Sandilla returns to his seat with a smile, knowing that he had been named "Most Talkative."

Pomp and Circumstance" filled the air as the Class of 2000 begins to march its way through the aisles of the auditorium.



Before entering the auditorium and changing their lives forever, Mike Lamb, Amanda Laviollette, and Ryan Lawrence take their places in line.

At the guest speakers, as well as the administration and guidance counselors, look on and listen intently as valedictorian Tiffany Stochel gives her speech.





On the edge of her seat, Sharnee Johnson becomes an active listener to one of the speakers. Her applause helps show her remembrance and enjoyment of a certain time that the speaker highlighted.

one night

Makes a BIG difference
to the Class of 2000.

Could one person's life change completely within a few short hours? It could if that individual was graduating from high school.

On June 8, 2000, a momentous occasion took place—the Merrillville High School graduation. To the famous tune of "Pomp and Circumstance," the graduates paraded in front of the huge crowd that had gathered in the Radisson Star Plaza auditorium.

Many family members and friends tried to find a seat in which they could easily spot their particular student, but it wasn't easy to do. Almost every seat was filled, and there seemed to be almost as many camera flashes. The mass was full of smiles, and as nervous as the audience was, the graduates were more so.

Clad in purple and white with tassels swinging to the rhythm of their step, the students walked through the aisles to take their alphabetically assigned seats. Much preparation went into making the

evening a special one. Decorations adorned the auditorium, and balloons drifted from the ceiling at the event's termination.

Principal Evelyn Ennsmann began the ceremony with a welcome, which then led into the speeches of the five student speakers. First, class president Ray Keilman addressed his peers and spoke of memories from elementary school through high school. He left the students with some fond thoughts from the past as well as intelligent advice for the future.

Next, salutatorian Amanda Valse took the podium and talked about famous great minds from the past and what impact their ideas had made on the world and the effect they would have on the students from the Class of 2000.

The third speaker was one of the three valedictorians, Aleksandar Goreski. He took quite a creative route with his speech and decided to tie his ideas together with a theme,

CONTINUED PAGE 201



A bird's eye view of the Radisson Star Plaza displays the massive number of people who are in attendance. The wave of purple and white is just another way to look at a group of students who will soon be graduating from high school.



Full of comic relief, Ryan Transfiguracion delivers his valedictory speech.

— SPREAD BY TIFFANY STOCHEL

While it was a happy occasion, some students, such as Ryan Petry, cried tears when they realized a special stage in their lives was ending.



Many students had been waiting to receive their diplomas. Michelle Lindahl gladly shakes hands with Dr. Tony Lux as he presents her diploma.

Chaos resulted after the ceremony. The graduates, full of laughter, excitement, and a bit of sadness, gathered to find their family and friends.





Rob Hemphill, Beth Hirjak, and Terri Hoffmann prepare to turn their tassels with the rest of their classmates.

one night

Makes a BIG difference
to the Class of 2000.

CONTINUED

He used the popular song, "I Will Remember You" by Sarah McLaughlin as the connection between the past, present, and the future. To each line of the chorus, he focused on remembrance as well as a concentrated look to the future.

Valedictorian Tiffany Stochel was the next student to share her opinions and ideas with her fellow classmates. Her speech took on more of a solemn and serious tone. Much of her speech revealed certain pieces of wisdom that she had learned from family and friends throughout her high school years. She urged everyone to stick to their values and never stop trying to be the best they can be.

The final valedictorian was Ryan Transfiguracion. As always, he brought a bit of comedy and humor to his speech. Although he made references to the class falling asleep because of having to listen to so many speeches, he also gave them a message to always be confident in order to overcome the many obstacles in life.

Having the student speeches completed, keynote speaker Bill Sanders stepped forward. With hardly a note to guide him along the

way, Sanders used anecdotes as well as many humorous tidbits to keep the audience interested in what he had to say. Of course, he still delivered the important message of living one's life to the fullest and learning to laugh a little at the tough times.

It was then time to receive the diplomas. Just as Ernsmann had implored, the students were dignified and orderly. As their names were called, the students received their diplomas from Dr. Anthony Lux and then proceeded to cross the stage to shake hands with Ernsmann.

Then, Kelley Sullivan took the last few minutes of the ceremony to read the senior poem which she had written. It talked about life, love, and Pirate Pride.

With tears streaming down the faces of some and smiles gracing those of others, the students turned their tassels as purple and white balloons cascaded from the ceiling. They had made history by being the first class to graduate in the new millennium.

It certainly was a night to remember, and a wonderful one at that.



Speaker Bill Sanders shares his wisdom and humor with the audience.



The senior poem was one of the final thoughts that the graduates received. It was delivered by Kelley Sullivan, who had written the passage herself.

— SPREAD BY TIFFANY STOCHEL



Leaving an impression

VALUES

A JOB, FRIENDS, family, school, extracurricular activities, a significant other - It sometimes seemed as though there was not enough time in the day to be with the important people in one's life in addition to school and trying to make money.

STUDENTS TRIED to make an impression in many different ways on many different people, including the boss, friends, and family.

THE POWER of the mighty dollar bill drove most students to hold some kind of a job for at least a portion of the school year. This money was used for anything from car insurance to college payments to the all-important spending money.

FRIENDSHIPS were an extremely essential part of most students' lives. Whether it was to go to the movies, a restaurant, or just to sit and talk about life's miracles and miseries, a friend was the person that many students primarily turned to.

A FAMILY created the backbone of a student's morals, values, and attitudes toward life. Although rebelling against parents might have held more intrigue at the time, students continued to understand the importance of their family and the impression it made on them.

Each year is full of wild **friends**. Different clothes and hairstyles make their mark. Some remain popular while others are lost to the past. Armalita Muro makes her individuality known with her unique sense of style.

Lawrence Obregon and Vanessa Sonaty enjoy a carefree moment while waiting for their food at Applebee's. This restaurant and several others were great places to spend time with family and friends.



Time flies when you're having fun. Jacob Camp shows that work can be enjoyable as he takes care of pictures at Giolas studio.



After reconstructions and additions to the mall, it offers a spacious new food court in a more elegant atmosphere.

WHAT DO YOU VALUE MOST IN YOUR LIFE?



"Family. If it wasn't for them, I wouldn't have what I have now."

- HEATHER PHILIPPE, '03



"Live life to its fullest extent, but don't go making a mess, respect yourself and others, and finally, don't act stupid."

- MARIO LOPEZ, '00



"My sisters because they are always there for me and listen to my problems."

- CHRISTINA DAMJANOSKI, '01

TAKES Practicing A LOT OF TIME

Senior and MHS talent in the local band scene, Geremy Rinker has been involved in music for years. He has played in two different bands, one of which just started over the winter.

His father and grandfather both influenced Geremy into playing the drums, and he enjoyed them more than the other instruments.

Although each band practiced at least once a week, Rinker said: "...it's never enough. In order to get things down really well you have to devote a lot of time. It's just too hard to work around everyone's schedule."

Being influenced by bands such as Tool, 311, Deftones, Rage, System of a Down and even Cypress Hill, Rinker realized he had talent at the age of 14. His friends used to joke about starting a band, so they just figured, "Why not?" He said it's his way of dealing with stress, and that he loved music because it made him happy.

Ryan Jeutu plays
the drums at the
Revive Three
bands participated
in the annual event.



PLAYING A SONG

Courtesy: Rinker and his bandmates pose for an upcoming album cover. Rinker has been a member in several local bands, sometimes two or three simultaneously.



local teens' bands

The lights were low. Noises trickled through the stagnant atmosphere as people pushed and shoved anxiously awaiting the moment the flood lights would hit the stage and light up the room then the band took the stage.

An everchanging group of local bands attended MHS. For instance, Ryan Gregory, '00, from Phat Aggression was the bassist in the band since his freshman year. Gregory said, "We play everything from hardcore to rap to punk and put it together."

The group has kept the same sound with improvements here and there...playing what they liked, and they didn't plan on changing. It had one CD out and planned on releasing another one.

Lo Clase was another band with MHS roots. Thom Carter (lead vocalist and guitarist), Chris Irwin (bass), Steve Salas (guitar/vocals) have remained with the band from the onset. Band members met in the freshman biology class with the exception of newcomer Jon Jasinski.

Another band originating at MHS was Necrosis. The band members, Matt Hebert (bass), Chris Wisner (vocals), Joe Gorski (guitar), Scott Bromwell (guitar), Jake Snover (drums) met at school and got the band together in September 1999. They released a demo set in February. According to Hebert, "The band may be too heavy for the masses, but we hoped we could get more people into metal."

The lights dimmed as the final encores were played. The crowd gathered their belongings and readied themselves for the journey home. Each member of the audience had taken home a piece of Merrillville High School with them.

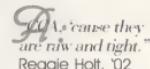
— SPREAD BY JENNIFER VILLARS, LISA FASTERO, MARY ANN FOTIS, AND ERICA KIMBLE

Q **What is your favorite local band? Why?**



Phat Aggression, 'cause they are tight."

Cat Presley, '02



Phat Aggression, 'cause they are raw and tight."

Reggie Holt, '02



Phat Aggression, 'cause they are phat."

Brian Merritt, '01



Find Family, cause the beats and lyrics are original, and I enjoy listening to them."

Justin Johnson, '02



The remains of Phat Aggression and Sick Frown. (They're trying to get a band together.)

Morgan Palmateer, '00

FOOD

What is your favorite local restaurant? Why?



Applebee's, 'cause it's open 'til 2 in the morning.
Sergio Rodriguez, '02



Applebee's. Because it's Alex's and my restaurant.
Aimee Plukas, '02

Alto Castle, 'cause it is the only place you can get a 10 sack for \$4.20.
Nicole Herrera, '02



Maxim's, 'cause my friends and I always go there and drink coffee.
Beth Elliott, '00

FAVORITE

Jake Rodriguez enjoys his hot wings with some friends at Buffalo Wild Wings. The restaurant has become a hit among students featuring 25 cent hot wings on Tuesdays.



popular restaurants

What did all MHS students look forward to? If you were a student, you guessed it- the weekends. Although there was not very much to do in the town of Merrillville, friends always found something to do together, whether it was going to the movies, bowling, or just hanging out at a friend's house.

But what did students do when they became hungry, and they were too lazy to cook? They piled into the car and went to a restaurant. Many went to TGI Friday's or Applebee's to converse with their friends. The students enjoyed the excitement of these loud places. Some even said the food was great.

Many students were finding out that restaurants were the places to be. Many friends met by chance there and came up with creative plans for the evening, or they chose to sit back and chill with their crowd of friends.

They might have even met new people from different schools and found themselves new dates. Andy Pawlowski, '01, said, "My favorite restaurant is Hooters. I like the wings and my girlfriend Cindy." Dena Panyai, '01, commented, "I like going to Steak and Shake because all of my friends are always there." Vince Manara, '01, said, "I enjoy going to The New China Buffet because it is cheap, and I could eat a lot." While Jessica Abbott, '01, found another attraction. "I like going to Friday's because the food is great, and it's fun to hit on the hot servers."



RESTAURANT QUIZ

Fill in the blank:

1. Where did you go out to eat most often?

2. What was your favorite menu item?

3. Where could you get the best hamburgers?

4. What was the best late night place?

5. Which was the best pizza place?

6. What was the best Mexican restaurant?

Eryn Van Loon takes a big bite out of her cheeseburger from the new food court at Southlake Mall. The long-awaited food court opened in late November, just in time for the Christmas season.

MALL QUIZ

Fill in the blank:

1. Which store had the best clothes?

2. What was your favorite place to eat?

3. Which was the best place to go for CD's?

4. Where did you find the best jewelry?

5. Where did you find the best prices?

6. What did you enjoy doing at the mall besides shopping?

After reconstructions and additions to the Southlake Mall, it offers a spacious and attractive new food court.



SHOPPING SPREE

mall madness

While walking throughout Southlake Mall you were bound to run into at least one classmate. If you were there any time during the summer of '99 you also ran into construction whether it was in the parking lot while trying to find an entrance or inside finding an escalator that actually worked. All this contributed to the new modern look being constructed.

Southlake Mall was one of the biggest hangouts for teenagers. Students went there to shop or simply to walk around with friends. When there was nothing to do on a Friday night many students and their friends showed up at the mall to pass time and have fun. It was always a place for teens to go with their friends.

The newest attraction was the Food Court. There were many restaurants to choose from different types of food from and a new area to eat. After an enjoyable day shopping you could eat anything from Chinese to Italian food.

You also saw classmates who worked in part of the Food Court or were sitting at the tables with a group of friends often drinking their Gloria Jeans coffee.

However, the town of Merrillville had other places to go to meet with your friends. You could also find friends at Stardust Bowling Alley or at other restaurants along route 30.

Abercrombie and Fitch, a recent addition, is one of the hottest stores in the mall. It offers a popular line of clothing that focuses mainly on young adults.



QWhat was the best place to hangout at the mall? Why?



Abercrombie's, because it's the best store in the world."

Matt Vurva, '00



Yankee Emporium, because they have the best stuff around."

Shannon Palo, '00



Jackin's Castle, because it's fun."

Tony Wachholz, '03



Abercrombie's, because of all the band memorabilia."

Jacob Barnett, '03



Mr. Rags, because they have the tightest stuff."

Shawn Clark, '03

FIRST SIBLINGS ATTEND MHS IT'S FAMILY

Q:

How do you feel about going to the same school as your sibling?



Jennifer Holtz, '00, thinks it's cool at times, but other times you'd kind of like to be there by yourself. Teachers tend to identify the two of us together."

—Carole Holtz, '00

Russ and Luke Francis stop in the journalism room to talk to staffers about each other. There seem to be more advantages to being the younger brother than the older one.



What was it like to attend MHS with a sibling? Many times, siblings fought constantly until they were older. Usually when both siblings reached high school, they matured and became closer to each other.

Often times, Jennifer, '00, and Jeff Abrego, '03, were seen hanging out with each other outside of school. They both enjoyed going to the same school. Jennifer said, "It's really fun because I get to push him around in the hallways." This was what Jeff disliked about attending the same school. However, it was convenient for Jeff because he got a ride from his older sister every day.

Bill, '00, and Brenton Connnelly, '03, looked almost identical in some people's eyes, but when asked about their personalities, one saw they were two completely different people. According to Bill, "I don't mind going to the same school, but it kind of stinks because I sometimes get sick of seeing him at home, and now I have to see him at school." Brenton liked the fact that Bill was his older brother because he had given the "Connnelly" name a good reputation. Brenton said "I have met a lot of older people through Bill, and I like to hang out with them." Bill did not mind when Brenton came along because he was fun to chill with.

Although one could not tell by their looks, brothers Russ, '00, and Luke Francis, '03, shared a lot in common. "We both admire Sigmund Freud and his outlook on life." Russ thought Luke was cool, but he did not like it when Luke wore his clothes. "Luke is fun to chill with, but when he goes out with my friends and me, I have to worry about him." Luke liked to have an older brother because he met a lot of people.

—SPREAD BY LINDSEY KRUMRIE, MANDY KOMENDA, RANDI GUERNSEY, AND CICELY HARRIS



SIBLINGS QUIZ

Fill in the blank:

1. What did you and your brother/sister fight about most often?

2. What did you and your sibling have most in common?

3. What did you and your sibling have least in common?

4. If Mom and Dad only knew . . .

5. What was your favorite memory of the year?

Jennifer and Jeff Abrego walk down the hall in a quiet minute. Jeff's main advantage was catching a ride with his older sister.

Test Your Knowledge

1. Over the next seven years, how many jobs will be high-tech positions?
a. 30% c. 80%
b. 50% d. 10%
2. The average veterinarian makes:
a. \$30,000 c. \$57,000
b. \$89,000 d. \$42,000
3. To help defray the cost of advanced education, how much does the Marine Corps pay?
a. 25% c. 95%
b. 50% d. 75%
4. Chemists with a doctorate make an average of \$71,000 per year.
a. True b. False
5. How many women attend the U.S. Coast Guard Academy to begin a career?
a. 18% c. 38%
b. 30% d. 65%

Answers: 1. C; 2. C; 3. A; 4. B; 5. D

Angela De Jesus and her fellow employees model their uniforms for their jobs at Hot Dog On a Stick on the upper level near Sears in Southlake Mall.



PART-TIME JOBS

extra spending money

*M*elissa Johnston straightens and refolds the merchandise at her job at Southlake Mall. Students who worked in retail often found themselves picking up after customers.



What came to mind when you had to work? Tired, lazy, didn't feel like it? On the other hand, some students had jobs that they really liked.

Often students were well rewarded after finishing their work, which made their hard work worth it in the end. Raymond Dix, '01, worked behind the counter at the Crossroads Cinema. Dix commented, "It is very easy, because no one goes there. We go in, serve food, sell tickets, and clean the theater, but I get to see the movies for free."

Eryn Van Loon, '00, worked at the Buckle in Southlake Mall. She worked 20-25 hours per week selling clothes. Van Loon said, "I like the people I work with, and I like selling clothes. I like working in retail because it's a lot of fun and easy to do."

While some enjoyed their job, working with food was not enjoyable for Jessy Johnston, '00, who worked at Baker Square. "But, my boss is cool and very forgiving, so if something comes up, I can leave," said Johnston.

How about working at a place where you had to wear funny uniforms and hats? Angela Escobedo, '01, had a job at Hot Dog On a Stick. She made lemonade, cooked hot dogs, and worked as a cashier. "I have a lot of fun working with everyone I work with, and we have a great time. It also pays really well," explained Escobedo.

While the students worked towards their plans for the future, got their homework done, and earned extra money, jobs played a big role in all of their lives.

QWhy did you have a job?



*H*ave a job because it makes me feel independent."

Lamar Hunter, '00

QHave a job for all the girls."

Eric Navarro, '00



*H*ave a job to pay for insurance and my phone bill."

Christina Walls, '01



QHave a job for the money and because I need a car."

Dena Panyai, '01



*H*ave a job to pay for all of my traffic tickets."

Roger Maull, '00



COOL

What trend do you think this year will be remembered for?



Don't think there is any one thing that sticks out in my mind."
Melissa Johnston, '00

Probably clothes like Tommy Hilfiger, Abercrombie and Fitch, Fubu, and Avirex."
Krystle Jones, '01



I think the capri shorts."
Natalie Lindsey, '00

It will be a mixture of everything from the 1990's to 2000."
Katherine Czubik, '02



Steve Schaab's multi-colored mohawk is frequently seen above the crowd. This hair style saw a come back this year as students expressed their individuality.



following the trends

LOOKING

The transition from 1999 to 2000 was the beginning of a new millennium for new styles, trends, and fads. It was a year for change and students at Merrillville took full advantage of this opportunity to be different, or at least start something new. There were seasonal trends, hidden trends, eye-catching styles, loud beats, and many more.

One trend that seemed to stem from the days of our parents is tattoos. Whether it was a way to rebel against parents, society, and innocence or just a way to make a permanent statement, tattoos continued to be a popular lifelong mark.

Mohawks, remembered as an 80's fad, seemed to have squeezed their way back into the new century. Afros, a 70's look, also squeezed their way back at MHS.

Hair wasn't the only thing tinted this year. Many people walked through the parking lot and heard loud bass but couldn't see who was in the car. Tinted windows seemed to be a common option on a variety of cars. Jim Karamacoski, '02, who sometimes got annoyed with the tinted windows said, "I always want them to be rolled down so I can be seen."

Girls took full advantage of the warm weather this year by stocking up on platform shoes and capris. Although, not everyone enjoyed this new trend. Josh Mehay said, "My grandma wears them a lot, and she would always say, 'Someday they'll be back in style.' We used to make fun of kids who wore floods. When did it become cool?"

The styles that seemed to presently be so popular will be ancient trends in the near future. However, the cycle of style will continue to turn.

— SPREAD BY TOWANDA HAMMONDS, BLYTHE BERTOLO,

LISA FASTERO AND JENNY VILLARS



Nikisha Jefferson wears her hair in one of the braided styles that was popular this year. Weaves and extensions were used to achieve some of the styles while colored ribbon was woven into others.



Katrina Portis models some of this year's favorite fashions during Spirit Week, including a hat and a bracelet that looks like a tattoo.

QUIZ FOR COUPLES

Fill in the blank:

1. What was the best thing about being in a relationship?

2. Where was the best place to go with your date?

3. What connected you to him/her?

4. If an argument occurred, what was usually the reason for it?

5. What made your partner so special to you?

6. What special quirk did you have with your significant other?



Alex Vasilski
escorts Aimee
Dhakay to her next
class. Alex and
Aimee have grown
to be best of friends.

MAKING A MOVE

high school romance

If a vote was taken at MHS on the best couple, many would agree that Doug Graves and Chasity Mason sit and enjoy each other's company at their junior Prom.

Doug and Chasity were not friends before their relationship, and both of them felt this was a good thing. Doug said, "It made it fresh, no background." Luckily for them, Chasity and Doug only had two fights throughout their whole relationship. Chasity said, "The best thing about our relationship is we relate to each other as good friends and not just a couple." Doug added, "It's good because we just have fun and don't take things serious. We are still young; we don't need to." Although Chasity worked at Texas Coral and Doug worked at Midwest Tire and Auto, they found time to spend together.

Often, friends tried to do the hooking up for others and were not successful, but in Alex and Aimee's case, they were. Alex Vasilski and Aimee Plukas have been dating for over a year. They had both been in relationships before, but they weren't as serious as this one. Both of them felt that their personalities attracted them the most to each other.

According to Alex, the best thing about their relationship was that they were best friends. Aimee said, "The best thing is how much we care for each other, and that I can trust him." Both of them felt their most memorable experience together was at Prom.

Whether or not these relationships will last, the memories and times spent together will always be remembered.

— SPREAD BY RANDI GUERNSEY, MICHELLE UREMOVICH,
JAKE CAMP, AND JILL BAZZIEL

Doug Graves and Chasity Mason sit and enjoy each other's company at their junior Prom.



WHAT FIRST ATTRACTED YOU TO HIM/ HER?



"Her smile."
Nick Wardrip, '00
A:

"His eyes and his smile."
Kara Lux, '03

"His personality."
Teresa Saladacotta, '02

"Her eyes."
Jeremy Keene, '01



"Her personality."
Nick Porzuczek, '00
A:

"His personality."
Jennifer Bronowski, '00

"Her personality."
Jamie Sweeney, '03

"She was different from everyone else."
Ricardo Moreno, '03



"Her eyes and smile."
Jamie Bainbridge, '00

"Her hair, her smile, everything about her."
Andy Tancos, '00





Going crazy is what dances are all about, and Ashley Vasaitis shows her spirit during the Turnabout Dance.

Leaping an impression

MEMORIES

AH - THE SWEETNESS of memories...Time flew by us so quickly that we didn't even remember some of the most important events in our lives.

SOMEHOW, though, people continued to recall memories with the recollection of a touching song, a special scent, a poignant day, or a loving face.

MEMORIES occurred not only within an individual but within a community, a country, and even an entire globe. Just as each person experienced his own tragedies, such as a death, an injury, or a divorce, so did his or her community. The tragedy of former principal Forrest "Dusty" Rhode's death was certainly etched in the minds of most individuals.

SIMILARLY, A WEDDING, a new boyfriend or girlfriend, or excellent grades probably brought much excitement and happiness to a person. These same emotions were felt by the country and the world.

IT WAS WONDERFUL to live one's own life and make one's own special memories. They were the only bonds that a person had to the past and the only ideas to move on in order to look forward to the future.

ONE REMEMBERED, however, that, although one's memories were personal and individual, the emotions that came from those thoughts were shared by other people. These emotions helped unite everyone into communities, countries, and the entire global universe.

—SPREAD BY TIFFANY STOCKEL AND JACOB CAMP

One of the most memorable events of the year is the Prom. A multitude of students gather in the Hall of Flags in their best threads to crown the King and Queen and participate in the Grand March.



AAnna Craft goes head-to-head against teacher Jennifer Albano at the student-faculty basketball game. This was a great end of the year event for the student body.



Career Day brings experts from a wide variety of fields. This gives students the opportunity to explore different career options, including law enforcement.

BRIEFLY DESCRIBE YOUR BEST/WORST MEMORY.



The field trip to Thespian Regionals. "The bus ride was unforgettable, and we all got to know each other. Some would say a little too well."

- MATTHEW CUNNINGHAM, '02



Best - "I get to spend time with my mom during the summer because she is at work during the school year."

- RICKIE DONALDSON, '01



"The best world have to be mine first kiss. It was a magical evening that I will never forget."

- LORETTA PETROVICH, '00

In the wake of the Columbine tragedy MCSC Tightens Security

Since the Columbine High School tragedy, the climate inside Merrillville schools changed dramatically. The tragedy and an incident where a student brought a gun to school served as a wake up call causing major changes to be made in school security.

Like all other schools in the state of Indiana, Merrillville was required to put together a crisis management plan. However, Merrillville Community School Corporation went farther.

The School Board created an anonymous school security hotline that callers could call with any information about suspicious activity within the schools.

Former Hobart police chief and



Larry Juzwicki
MCSC Director of
Security

Lakes of the Four Seasons security chief Larry Juzwicki was hired as the full-time director of security.

The School Board also hired hall monitors for both Harrison and Pierce Middle Schools.

Security cameras were being installed at the entrances to all eight school buildings and doors that were previously unlocked were locked.

Merrillville was awarded a federal grant that will cover the cost of putting a policeman in the school system.

Efforts were made to make school employees more identifiable. Employees who traveled from building to building were required to wear uniforms.

There were also plans to remodel the entryways of every elementary school building by installing electronic doors that will be controlled by office personnel to limit access to the buildings.

Crime and Punishment

What will happen if you throw back a cheese fry someone plopped on your table? To some "C" lunch students the resulting food fight seemed to be right out of the movie "Animal House," but others fled the cafeteria in an effort to stay out of trouble.

As student after student was called to Principal Evelyn Ennsmann's office over the P.A. system, students and teachers alike knew that those video cameras in the cafeteria worked.

As administrators reviewed the tapes trying to determine who started the skirmish, rumors flourished about the punishment being meted out to those involved.

By the end of the day, many of the students who participated by throwing food knew one thing, Mrs. Ennsmann was NOT amused!

Students who took part in the food fight were assigned two weeks of service to the principal. For most students that meant being assigned duty during C or D lunch cleaning

up in the cafeteria. The culprits had an assigned location in the cafeteria. They were not allowed to speak to other students who were being punished or to students sitting at the tables. If a student was absent because of illness, he or she was required to make up that day of service.

In spite of the severity of the punishment, one student who threw food admitted that at the time it was fun. However, she quickly added, "I wouldn't do it again though."



Bbecca Robinson paints the plaster mask for her "yeah rug" project which was on display in the art gallery as artist Carole Boller watches.

Students say 'Yeah' to art

Visual artist Carole Boller came from California to work with our Special Education classes through the Very Special Arts Indiana (VSAI) program, a program that provided hands-on activities in humanities. The program was funded by national, state, and private grants.

Boller traveled to Merrillville High School and Lake Street Elementary school in Crown Point to work on special programs with special needs children. She changed her program to fit the needs of her students, which included students from kindergarten through 12th grade.

At MHS, she did what the class called a "yeah rug." That name was taken from the "yei" design Native Americans used. Barb Dlouhy and Melissa Szczerba's classes used the design as a background for their projects.

Boller, who has been a master artist for the state of Indiana for 13 years, said she and the children chose masks as symbols of emotion and personal identity. The students had a choice of happy, sad, worried, or surprised.

Boller said, "We have been talking about those emotions and how art and our emotions in our face are a communication. You don't have to say 'I'm mad,' to see anger." She added, "Art is the universal language."

The class project created an Indian mural

made of human-size plaster face masks. They also made bodies with posterboard. These were mounted on plywood panels with the "yei" design as background.

The "yei" design had a face and a very long, thin body that wore a Navajo toga sometimes with bows and arrows and animals. The border had Indian symbols.

Students held a pow wow to celebrate the completion of the project. They also took a field trip to NIPSCO to view some of Boller's paintings which were displayed there.

The mural was displayed in the Dr. Eleanor Lewis Art Gallery at the front of MHS. The display stayed up throughout March, which was designated "Disabilities Awareness Month." It was also shown at Lake Street Elementary, the Northern Indiana Art Association gallery in Crown Point, and the NiSource corporate offices in Merrillville.

Boller divided her time between studio work and the educational projects for Indiana. She said, "I like working with students because they have such fresh and wonderfully creative ideas."

She added, "I work with regular classes, but I like being with special needs students. I was partially blind for a whole year and know the challenge it can be when you have disabilities."

Artist
Carole
Boller
brings
Very
Special
Arts
Program
to MHS
students



Mural Magic

Curiousity took hold as Illinois artist Timm Etters started to paint a mural in the main entrance of MHS. Onlookers wondered what the finished mural would look like, but Etters gave no hints.

First, he patched cracks in the walls and primed them. Then he took house paint and spray painted and air brushed backgrounds for the mural which was supposed to be completed in one month.

Etters enjoyed the relationships he developed with the students while he was working. He welcomed them to walk up to where he was working to talk. He said, "I don't like to set boundaries. I like the kids to feel like they can come up and hang out."

The fantasy-like mural Etters created was

conceived after he visited the school and got a feel for the students. He didn't like to talk about his ideas until the mural was complete to discourage any preconceived ideas about what the mural was to be like. He said, "Whatever the route of inspiration is, that's the way I go."

Etter's mural was one of his large-scale commissions costing between \$18,000 to \$20,000.

The money to pay for the mural came from money left to MHS by the classes of 1987 to 1998. Principal Evelyn Ennsmann decided that a mural was a good way to spend the money, and future classes could continue to contribute until the mural was paid for. The school board approved the commission.



Bus stops at MHS

Students learn about government and video production

A traveling crew from C-SPAN urged MHS government students in teacher Pat Mulloy's classes to take part in the democratic process. A traveling classroom complete with video production equipment and information about how students could learn about public affairs by watching the national cable channel, the 45 foot bus had previously been hosted by Chesterton and Valparaiso High Schools.

The bus represented conflicting messages. High school students grew up with cable television, but young people were the group least likely to vote.

C-SPAN, which had broadcasted public affairs since 1979, is a privately funded public service created by the American cable industry. The station provided complete proceedings of the U.S. House of Representatives and Senate.

"Make sure you make an educated vote," Nina Cole of C-SPAN told the government classes. She added that students could learn about important issues like gun control and abortion rights on C-SPAN. The C-SPAN educators explained that C-SPAN was designed to deliver infor-

mation, not change it or tell people what to think.

Cole added, "We're dedicated to showing events in their entirety." She told the students that C-SPAN was the only ones who did that.

When government student Jaime Escobedo, '00, left the bus he said the C-SPAN message was a good one. "We learned that many

of us don't vote, really never vote or learn about important issues. But I know it's an important thing to do."

Students from broadcast teacher Tom Spitzer's video production class also visited the bus. Production specialist Joe Teeple discussed how camera angles and other techniques influenced how a video was viewed. He told the students, "High angles make people seem weaker or smaller, low angles make them seem bigger, and side angles can show that people aren't looking each other in the eye."

Teeple told students that most people were unaware to what extent camera angles make actors like Arnold Schwarzenegger or Sylvester Stallone seem bigger than they really are. He told the video production students that Schwarzenegger was about 5 foot 10 inches tall and Stallone was about 5 foot 5 inches.

C-SPAN

1st anniversary

School officials decide to play it safe

Even before the first anniversary of the Columbine High School tragedy arrived, administrators had heard rumors of a bomb threat posted on the Internet. Although they searched, they never located any threat.

When the day arrived, some students stayed home, but most came to school as usual. A threat written in chalk on the pavement leading into the student parking lot was the first

indication of trouble.

As students walked to first period class, a couple of students wearing black trenchcoats were stopped and questioned by administrators.

When the school administrators found fliers threatening a bomb in some of the restrooms and a nearly new looking backpack was found in a wastebasket, the decision was made to send the students and staff home while the Por-

ter County bomb squad searched the building to ensure everyone's safety.

Students were locked down in their third period classes until their busses arrived. Then they were sent directly to the bus.

Administrators met with teachers to explain the day's events and then sent them home as well.

In the end, nothing was found and school resumed the next day.

MISSING PERSONS

Have you seen Jean Luc today?

English teacher Linda Fry, a huge *Star Trek* fan, shows off her clues in her search for her kidnapped life-size Jean Luc Picard cutout.



English teachers played a practical joke on retiring department chairperson Linda Fry when they kidnapped her life-size cutout of Jean Luc Picard. A *Star Trek* fan, Fry had decorated her room with *Star Trek* figures and the cutout.

A ransom note indicated that Fry was to sub for each teacher, grade a set of compositions for each teacher each semester, and cook dinner.

The cutout appeared on first period announcements, went for a night on the town, visited Horace Mann, had its picture taken at Fry's childhood home, and even took part in the senior drive-around. A picture of the Picard cutout taken with former school board member, and Picard look-alike, Dale Brooks was delivered to Fry's room by Brooks himself.

The cutout was finally returned at the annual retirement dinner.

Congratulations to 2000's Retirees



Chuck Carroll
MOMH



Judy Chidsey
English



Jim Edgcomb
Economics



Linda Fry
English



Jan Hughes
Business



Don Slye
Chemistry



year in review

1999-2000



MILLENNIUM

EDITION



you said...

Was the media coverage of the death of John F. Kennedy Jr. excessive or appropriate?

64% Excessive

36% Appropriate

The dreadful events that plagued the life of John F. Kennedy Jr. painted an eerie backdrop for the tragic plane crash that killed him, his wife, Carolyn Bessette Kennedy, and her sister, Lauren Bessette. The bodies of the three victims were recovered by divers in the Atlantic about seven miles off of Martha's Vineyard, where the Piper Saratoga II Kennedy was piloting crashed five days before. In the end, the nation and the world was left to mourn the loss of a man they came to know as a little boy, saluting the casket of his assassinated father, a boy who grew up to inherit the bittersweet Kennedy legacy.

The San Antonio Spurs held off the New York Knicks in June to win the team's first-ever NBA championship. The Spurs, led by David Robinson and Tim Duncan, clinched all four playoff series games on the road, completing the playoffs with a 15-2 record. The team also set an NBA single-season record with 12 consecutive victories in the postseason.



Nick Ut/AP



Robert Downey Jr., the one-time Oscar nominee and star of such films as "Natural Born Killers" and "Less Than Zero," was sentenced in August to three years in prison for violating his probation on drugs and weapons charges. The 34-year-old actor had made several attempts at rehabilitation prior to his latest arrest, and had spent more than six months behind bars.

Ryan Remiorz/AP

A controversial goal in the third overtime lifted the Dallas Stars to victory over the Buffalo Sabres in Game 6 of the Stanley Cup Finals in June. On the winning goal, Dallas'

Brett Hull took two whacks at the puck and finally knocked it past the Sabres' fallen goalie. After further review, the shot was ruled fair to give Dallas its first championship in franchise history.



MILLENNIUM XI CENTURY



The first century of the second millennium began with Leif Eriksson sailing west to become the first European in the New World. Eriksson and 35 other men crossed the Atlantic from Greenland to a place they called Vinland near what is now Newfoundland. The year was 1000 A.D.

A new measure of literary brilliance was discovered in 1008, when Japan's Lady Murasaki Shikibu wrote what is believed to be the first true novel, "The Tale of Genji." The colorful story of the life and loves of Prince Genji is considered a masterpiece and the pinnacle of Japanese literature.

Canute of Denmark became the king of England in 1016, following the death of his father who had conquered the country three years before. While presiding over a period of prosperity in England, Canute the Great also



The low-budget horror documentary, "The Blair Witch Project," came out of nowhere, earning more than \$150 million and competing with major studio releases, such as "The Sixth Sense," in the summer box office race. Having been made for less than \$35,000, the movie beat the odds to become the most profitable motion picture of all time.



you said...

What was your favorite movie of the year?

1. American Pie
2. The Sixth Sense
3. The Matrix
4. The Green Mile
5. 10 Things I Hate About You

A deadly earthquake measuring 7.6 on the Richter scale rocked western Turkey in August. By the year's most catastrophic, the earthquake killed more than 17,000 people. Several serious aftershocks followed the main earthquake, destroying thousands of buildings and leaving hundreds of thousands of people homeless and living in tent cities.



Mark Terrill/AP

The U.S. women's soccer team battled for 120 minutes to a scoreless tie before defeating China, 5-4, on penalty kicks in the World Cup Final. The exciting win captured the hearts of America, resulting in hero status for the team's 20 members and a shot in the arm for women's sports overall. Additionally, the World Cup championship was credited for boosting soccer's marginal stature in the United States.

suppressed uprisings in Denmark and defeated Norway. He died in 1035 as king of all three countries and a highly respected power in European politics.

William, duke of Normandy, a.k.a. William the Conqueror, led a triumphant charge over Harold, earl of Wessex, in the Battle of Hastings in 1066. At issue was the throne of England, which had been promised to William, but given to Harold. His army no match for the Normans, Harold was finally slain and William won the English crown.

Pope Urban II launched a crusade in 1095 to reclaim the Holy Land from the Turks. After several waves of battle, Christian soldiers eventually took Jerusalem in 1099. The triumph was short-lived and the Crusades continued for another 200 years.



Summer '99



Burhan Ozbilici/AP

June 1 — American Airlines Flight 1420 carrying 145 passengers skidded off a runway, broke apart and burst into flames during an emergency landing at a Little Rock, Ark., airport. Eleven people were killed and at least 83 others were injured in the crash, which occurred during a gusty hail storm. Winds of 90 mph caused the aircraft to slam into a steel light pole, split into pieces and catch fire, coming to a rest at the edge of the Arkansas River.

June 7 — The WNBA announced its selection of Indiana, Miami, Portland, Ore., and Seattle as expansion franchises to begin play in the 2000 season. The additions brought the two-year-old women's basketball league to 16 teams. Eight teams were part of the WNBA when play began in 1997 with franchises in Charlotte, Cleveland, Houston, New York, Los Angeles, Phoenix, Sacramento and Utah. Teams were added in Detroit and Washington before the 1998 season, and in 1999, Minnesota and Orlando joined the league.

June 15 — Rosa Parks, 86, the black woman whose refusal to give up her bus seat to a white man made her a symbol for civil rights, received the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest honor bestowed by the U.S. Congress, during a ceremony in the Capitol Rotunda. She was lauded by President Clinton and House and Senate leaders. As a recipient of the award, Parks was in elite company with people like Nelson Mandela and Mother Teresa having been honored before her.

June 29 — Sportscaster Marv Albert was rehired by NBC as one of the announcers on the network's NBA crew. The move came two years after he was fired in a lurid sex scandal, which resulted in a guilty plea for sexual assault of a woman in a Virginia hotel room. In December, it was announced that Albert would return next fall to his former position as NBC's lead basketball announcer.



Archive Photos

Millions gathered all over Europe and gazed curiously skyward to see the moon smother the light of the sun as the last total solar eclipse of the millennium swept across the continent in August. The eclipse, moving at a speed of 1,500 m.p.h., cast darkness on the land for about two minutes. It will be 82 years before Europeans see another solar eclipse.



Maurice Greene of the United States made a last-minute decision to run the 100 meters in an Athens, Greece, invitational in June. When it was over, he had run the fastest time in history. Greene finished the 100 meters with a time of 9.79, a full five-hundredths of a second faster than the record set by Donovan Bailey of Canada at the 1996 Atlanta Olympics.



Michael Probst/AP

Prince Edward, the youngest child of Queen Elizabeth, and publicist Sophie Rhys-Jones were married in a modest ceremony at St. George's Chapel inside Windsor Castle in June. The prince chose to forgo the royal pageantry that had accompanied the weddings of his siblings, most notably Prince Charles, all of which ended in divorce.



Alastair Grant/AP



MILLENNIUM XII CENTURY

The advent of **revolutionizing** **weaponry** in the early 12th Century, such as crude cannons, paper grenades and iron bombs, changed the way battles were fought. Gunpowder allowed weapons to be designed for tactical use and eventually led to standing armies and centralized power.

In 1117, the first known reference to the **incendiary** **grenade** was made in a book by Chinese scholar Zhu Yu. Although the first European

Andrea Mantegna



mention of the compass came more than 70 years later, venturesome Western sailors used it to sail west and eventually circumnavigate the globe.

Some 62 years after the **first modern university** — the University of Bologna, Italy, was founded in Bologna, Italy, the university concept finally caught on. The University of Paris, founded in 1150, served as a model for the creation of University of Oxford in 1187, each boasting faculties in theology, law, medicine and liberal arts.



Andrea Mantegna

Peter Casgrove/AP



Eileen Collins became the first female shuttle commander when she piloted the *Challenger* into space in July. Despite a fuel leak and a short-circuit in wiring, Collins and her crew successfully deployed the *Chandra X-ray Observatory* during their five-day mission. She was one of only 29 female astronauts employed by NASA.

Aaron Favila/AP



Residents of East Timor voted in August to end 24 years of occupation by Indonesia, resulting in a fierce crusade of violence and intimidation by anti-independence militias. Thousands were killed in the aftermath of the vote. In October, after multinational forces intervened, Indonesia eventually relinquished control of the newly independent colony.



Lance Armstrong became only the second American to win the *Tour de France*, when he outdistanced his opponents by an impressive seven minutes and 37 seconds in July. Having beaten the odds against testicular cancer only two years before, Armstrong's convincing *Tour de France* victory inspired the world.

Summer '99

July 23 — The third time was not a charm for the Woodstock rock festival, when the third such event in 30 years endured riot-like conditions. Riled-up rock fans went on a rampage toward the end of the weekend event, starting fires and trashing the Rome, N.Y., concert site. Surprisingly, no one was seriously injured and ultimately the fans supported participating bands such as Kid Rock, Rage Against the Machine and the Dave Matthews Band.

August 3 — The much-hailed new magazine from former *New Yorker* Editor Tina Brown, hit newsstands. The first issue featured a cover story on Hillary Rodham Clinton, talking candidly about the indiscretions of her husband, Bill, and her future in politics. In a sly political move, New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani, Hillary's likely opponent in the 2000 Senate race, rejected the original site for the magazine's launch party, which eventually took place at the Statue of Liberty.

August 22 — Martin Lawrence was hospitalized and subsequently fell into a coma after collapsing from heat stroke a month before the scheduled opening of his new movie, "Blue Streak." It was later reported that Lawrence had been jogging in heavy clothing with temperatures soaring into the 90s. The comic actor's publicist insisted it was all part of Lawrence's normal workout routine. Lawrence completely recovered after about three weeks in the hospital and was released just in time for the premiere.

August 31 — The final Lilith Fair gig was performed in Edmonton, Alberta, culminating the fourth summer for the touring music festival that broke new ground for female musicians. Joining founder Sarah McLachlan on stage for the final round of concerts were Sheryl Crow, Dixie Chicks, Indigo Girls, Lisa Loeb and a host of others.



Archive Photos

After completion of the first three stories of the *Torre Pendente di Pisa* (Tower of Pisa) in 1174, the edifice began to settle to the south. Engineers made several attempts to try to counter the problem, but to no avail. When the 189-foot, eight-story tower was finished in the 14th Century, it had developed a southern lean of more than 17 feet.



Archive Photos



All 217 passengers on EgyptAir Flight 990 were killed when the Boeing 767 crashed into the Atlantic off the Massachusetts coast. As search crews recovered pieces of the airliner from the ocean floor, speculation mounted that relief pilot Gamal al-Batouta intentionally crashed the plane. Information collected from the flight data recorder did reveal that al-Batouta turned off the engines and deployed the speed brakes. Although U.S. investigators suspected that al-Batouta had a death wish, no suicide note or evidence of terrorism emerged.

Maria Melin/AP



Ron Frehm/AP

The New York Yankees put the finishing touches on their "Team of the Century" designation by sweeping the Atlanta Braves in the World Series. By beating the Braves, the Yankees claimed their second-straight world championship sweep and the team's 25th World Series win overall. The Yankees are the only team in baseball history to chart back-to-back sweeps in the World Series, having done it three times.



you said...

Which of the new multi-million dollar TV shows was your favorite?

55%	Who Wants to Be a Millionaire
10%	Greed
3%	Twenty-One
2%	Winning Lines

ABC's surprise hit "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire" brought television full-circle from its infancy, when prime-time game shows were a mainstay. Hosted by TV's crafty quipster, Regis Philbin, the show became an instant phenomenon and gave ABC its first sweeps win in five years. The other major networks quickly followed suit with their own quiz-show clones, such as FOX's "Greed" and "Twenty One" on NBC.



MILLENNIUM XIII CENTURY



A scientific revolution spread across Europe sparked by new technologies and ideas brought from the Far East by travelers like **Marco Polo**. Sharing the knowledge of the more than 20 years he spent in Asia, Polo inspired Europeans to seek out the Orient and Columbus to sail the Atlantic.

The **zero** gained a firm foothold in Europe in 1202, having been rejected for two centuries by Christian clergymen who considered the Arabic number system heathenistic. Once rooted in use, the zero eventually transformed the art of European calculation.

Genghis Khan united the nomadic tribes of Mongolia, leading a war of Asian conquest and a bid to conquer the world in 1206. By the time he died in 1227, the Mongol emperor had conquered four times more land than Alexander the Great.



Alamy Photos



French explorer Bernard Buigues led an international expedition into a remote area of Siberia in October to excavate a 23,000-year-old woolly mammoth, its body remarkably preserved in the permafrost. Named "Jarkov" for the nomadic family that discovered it, the ancient mammal was airlifted to special cold-storage caverns. There, scientists began studying the creature and the soil around it for clues about the environment and what might have caused the species to become extinct.

Kathy Willens/AP

The sensational Williams sisters took professional women's tennis to new heights in 1999 with Venus, 19, and Serena, 18, finishing ranked No. 3 and No. 4 respectively. At the U.S. Open in September, Serena won the singles championship and then teamed with Venus the following day to ace the doubles title.



Faced with the threat of civil war and weakened by losses in France and an ongoing conflict with the church, King John of England bowed to demands by English barons who wanted more governmental control by signing the **Magna Carta** in 1215. The document not only served as the foundation for future forms of government in England, but eventually helped shape the U.S. Constitution.

Xanadu was founded in 1265 on the site now occupied by Beijing. Built by Kublai Khan, the first emperor of the Kuan Dynasty who ruled during a time of widespread prosperity, Xanadu would eventually become China's first capital.

NBC's "Saturday Night Live" celebrated its 25th anniversary with a live broadcast in September. Current and former cast members joined host Bill Murray on stage for the three-hour special. The program included a moving tribute to John Belushi, Gilda Radner, Phil Hartman and Chris Farley, the "not-ready-for-prime-time" players who have died since SNL first aired in 1975.



Francis Laielle/AP

Daniel Hulshizer/AP



Hurricane Floyd brought deadly flood waters to North Carolina in September, killing more than 50 people and causing in excess of \$5 billion in damage. Towns in 61 counties were inundated by flooding in what was deemed the worst disaster in the state's history. Floyd was part of one of the worst hurricane seasons the East Coast had seen in more than 20 years.



September 11 — A well-organized cell of Bin Laden's terrorist into the Wedgewood Baptist Church in Fort Worth, Texas, and opened fire, killing seven people before sitting in a pew and turning the gun on himself. Seven others were wounded, three of them seriously, in the shooting rampage, which happened during a service for teenagers. More than 150 people were in attendance. The shooting was one of several that occurred during the year, an ominous trend that sparked a nationwide debate on gun control.

September 25 — Federal health experts announced that the deaths of three people in New York City, originally attributed to mosquito-borne St. Louis encephalitis, were actually caused by a rare bird virus, not previously seen in the Western Hemisphere. Officials said the fatalities, in addition to more than 100 cases of illness, had been reclassified and were now being linked to a virus called the West Nile fever-like virus. Since the virus was usually found in Africa, they could not explain how it had traveled to New York.

September 27 — A sellout crowd of nostalgic Detroit baseball fans joined Hall of Fame players and the ghosts of past glory to say farewell to Tiger Stadium after 88 seasons. The American League team would be moving to the \$290 million Comerica Park about a mile away. Tiger Stadium, home of some of the greatest players in baseball history, including Ty Cobb, Hank Greenberg and Al Kaline, opened April 20, 1912, the same day as Fenway Park in Boston, which would now be the league's oldest stadium.

October 4 — Two commuter trains collided into each other during morning rush hour in central London and burst into flames, killing more than 70 people and sending another 150 people to area hospitals. Considered one of the country's worst train crashes in half a century, investigators eventually determined that the crash was caused by one of the trains passing a red signal.



An earthquake pounded the island of Taiwan in September, killing more than 2,000 people and toppling thousands of buildings. Measuring 7.6 on the Richter scale, it was Taiwan's worst earthquake on record and one of five major tremblers that struck around the globe between August and November.

Peter Cosgrave/AP



Fatima Nevic's eight-pound baby boy, born Oct. 12, 1999, in Sarajevo, was designated the world's six billionth person by the United Nations Population Fund. The organization had estimated the world's population would reach six billion that day, and U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan, in Bosnia-Herzegovina for a two-day visit, said he would declare the first child born in the Bosnian capital after midnight local time "Baby Six Billion." The UNPF reported it had taken 12 years for the population to grow from five to six billion people.

Planet Hollywood filed for bankruptcy reorganization in October, reporting estimated losses of a third of a billion dollars. The movie-themed restaurant chain debuted in 1991 with the financial backing of such Hollywood superstars as Bruce Willis and Sylvester Stallone.



MILLENNIUM XIV CENTURY

In the 14th Century, Europe descended into a **minor ice age**. Temperatures dropped as floods inundated the coasts, drowning animals and driving people inland. Glaciers expanded, icebergs moved south and the northern seas grew treacherous. The exceptional winters devastated the poor.

The **Black Death**, or plague, an infectious fever spread in urban areas by rat fleas, was first reported in India, spread to China and arrived in Italy aboard ships in 1347. It spread throughout Europe within months, killing more than a third of the population or some 30 million people.



Seaborne trade prospered in the 14th century when monsoons provided swift passage across the Indian Ocean, creating the world's busiest trade routes. Summer monsoons blew ships from Africa to India and the Spice Islands. There the ships idled in port, waiting for winter monsoons to blow them back.

Geoffrey Chaucer began writing **"The Canterbury Tales"** in 1387, completing the bulk of the epic by 1392. Chaucer's classic masterpiece, which in its final form features a round of more than 30 tales by a host of pilgrims, such as the Wife of Bath, the Pardoner and the Cook, consumed the



The accident gave new meaning to the phrase "life imitates art" and Stephen King was just happy he lived to tell about it. The 52-year-old horror novelist made his first public appearance in October after nearly being killed in a roadside accident four months before. King was struck from behind by a motorist as he walked along a wooded road near his summer home in North Lovell, Maine. Thrown 14 feet into a ditch, King suffered multiple broken bones, a collapsed lung and cuts to the head. The driver, Bryan Smith, 42, pleaded "not guilty" to charges of aggravated assault and driving to endanger, and was later penalized with a six-month license suspension.

David Phillip/AP

Poyné Stewart, the flamboyant professional golfer who regularly donned knickers and a tam o'shanter cap, was killed along with six others in October when his Lear jet ran out of fuel and plowed into a grassy field in South Dakota. The accident happened just three days before the PGA Tour Championship, a tournament in which Stewart was scheduled to participate. The news came as a shock to fellow golfers, many of whom paid tribute to Stewart by wearing knickers during the final round of the tour championship.



fall
99



you said...

What is your favorite television show?

- 1 Friends
- 2 The Simpsons
- 3 Dawson's Creek
- 4 Whose Line Is It Anyway?
- 5 ER



Reed Saxon/AP

FOX's "Ally McBeal" and ABC's "The Practice" won Emmys for best comedy series and best drama series, respectively, at the 51st Annual Primetime Emmy Awards in September. The shows, both produced by David E. Kelly, took their place among fan favorites like "Friends" and "ER" as television's hottest in 1999.

October 5 — MCI WorldCom Inc., the country's second-longest long-distance company, announced it would purchase Sprint Corp., the No. 3 carrier, in a deal valued at \$129 billion. The deal would be the biggest corporate takeover in history. WorldCom would make up about 30 percent of the \$90 billion U.S. long-distance market as a result of the merger. A short time later, the proposed merger came under criticism in the United States because of concern over its impact on the long-distance telephone and Internet access markets. Nearly six months passed without resolution and the merger remained on hold.

October 6 — Houston won the rights to the NFL's Texans franchise, beating out Los Angeles and its distinction as the second-longest TV market in the nation. Houston businessman Bob McNair paid \$700 million for the expansion franchise, the highest price ever for a sports team in the United States. NFL owners approved the measure, returning on NFL team to Houston just three years after the Oilers left for Tennessee. As part of the expansion, which will begin with the 2001 season, owners also voted to realign the league.

October 15 — A 29-year-old tomcat named Spike was crowned the world's oldest living cat, having reached a feline age equivalent to 203 human years. Owner Mo Elkington of London, England, insisted that the 10-pound puss has lived so long because she feeds him the "healing" aloe vera plant. Spike was officially entered in the Guinness Book of World Records as the oldest living cat. The world's longest-living cat died in 1998 after having lived 34 years, two months, and four hours.

October 27 — The famous form-fitting, flesh-toned dress Marilyn Monroe donned to sing "Happy Birthday, Mr. President" to President John F. Kennedy was sold for a whopping \$1.27 million, smashing the record for an item of clothing at auction. The previous record for a dress was \$222,500, paid at a 1997 charity auction for the blue velvet dress worn by Princess Diana at a White House dinner during which she danced with actor John Travolta.

latter part of his life with new tales being added right up to his death in 1400.

In the mid- to late-14th Century, Europe began to recognize a new sense of time with the advent of large **mechanical clocks**. Measuring out equal hours in town plazas and squares, these new oversized timekeepers became the focal point of civic activities, including colorful ceremonies to reset the clocks.



Archives Photos



Archives Photos

A six-year-old Cuban boy became the focus of an international tug-of-war after fishermen found him clinging to an inner tube two miles off the Florida coast. Little Elian Gonzalez was caught in the middle of a custody fight between U.S. relatives in Miami's politically powerful Cuban community and his father and grandmother living in Cuba. The fight escalated far beyond a family feud and was the latest chapter in a decades-long battle between anti-Castro Cubans and Cuban President Fidel Castro. While the Cuban Foreign Ministry demanded the boy's return, lawyers in the United States filed a petition for political asylum.

Domenico Stinellis/AP



A six-story apartment building in Foggia, a province in the southern Puglia region of Italy, collapsed in November while residents were sleeping. More than 30 people died and dozens more were injured in the disaster. Speculation on the cause of the collapse ranged from use of faulty building materials to infiltration of underground water into supporting columns at the ground level.

Damian Dovarganes/AP



NASA's continued efforts to probe the meteorological mysteries of Mars were dashed in December when, for the second time in three months, a space mission to Mars was lost. First, the Mars Climate Orbiter, a robotic satellite, was lost when scientists mixed up English and metric measurements. Then, the Mars Polar Lander and its two surface probes vanished without a trace. The two missions were poised to search for water on Mars, vitally important to determine if life might have once existed there. In the end, losses totaled \$265 million, capping one of NASA's most embarrassing moments in history.



MILLENNIUM XV CENTURY

Filippo Brunelleschi was credited with sparking the 15th Century **Renaissance** with his painting of a Baptistry in Florence, Italy, which revolutionized art with its use of perspective. Many artists followed, including Donatello, Leonardo da Vinci and Raphael. The Renaissance, driven by the idea of "many-sided" humanism, featured a renewed zeal for classical study and the continued rise of independent, secular thinking.

Joan of Arc led French forces to decisive victories in 1453 to help end the Hundred Years War. The conclusion of the war ended English claims to the French throne and furthered English expansionism on the continent, as well as assuring France's future as a nation.



German goldsmith Johann Gutenberg printed the first complete book in the West and the first book printed from movable type in 1455 by adapting a wine press for new uses. **Gutenberg's new printing press**, featuring lead type and oil-based ink, was used almost exclusively for the next 350 years, triggering an information revolution and creating a literate middle class.



AP Wirephoto

Russian President Boris Yeltsin unexpectedly resigned on the eve of the new millennium, apologizing to the nation for what he characterized as a failure to fulfill their dreams during his eight years of power. Yeltsin stressed that he was not leaving because of his health, but because "it was time to go." Deteriorating health and alleged corruption marred much of his presidency, however he will forever be remembered for dismantling communism in the former Soviet Union.



Stephan Savoia/AP

Anti-trade protesters descended upon the streets of Seattle to rally for human rights, labor, the environment and other concerns during World Trade Organization meetings in December. The protests turned violent and resulted in widespread vandalism, causing police to use tear gas and fire rubber bullets on people. The National Guard was deployed, a curfew was set and more than 500 people were arrested. No serious injuries resulted, but downtown merchants reported more than \$2 million in property damage and \$17 million in lost retail sales.

winter
99

November 1

November 4

November 10

November 11

November 30



Gene Puskar/AP



Four failed attempts behind him, Italian explorer **Christopher Columbus** sailed west from Spain in 1492 with three small ships and a Spanish crew and stumbled upon a new world. His discovery? Two giant continents rich in raw materials and agricultural products that eventually changed the economy and politics of the world at large.

Pokémon, Japan's cuddly cartoon critters, became one of the most popular trends in 1999, creating a frenzy for children of all ages with toys, video games, comic books, trading cards and a feature film. The animated "pocket monsters" also invaded television with a weekly cartoon series. The Pokémon franchise exploded with more than \$6 billion in sales worldwide, making it even more profitable than the entire video game industry.



Supplied by AP

A ferry carrying 336 passengers caught fire, broke up and capsized in the frigid waters off the eastern coast of China in November, killing more than 200 people. The maritime disaster, China's worst in more than a decade, was caused by gale-force winds that created 16-foot waves in near-freezing conditions. Officials reported that about half of those who perished died when they leapt from the ferry into the icy waters.



Kathy Willens/AP



you said

What was the silliest trend of the year?

1. Capri Pants
2. Pokémon
3. Bleached Hair
4. Butterfly Hair Clips
5. Piercing



MILLENNIUM XVI CENTURY



The bulk of the 16th Century was known as the Elizabethan Era, named as such in honor of England's Virgin Queen, **Elizabeth I**. Daughter of Henry VIII, Elizabeth ascended the throne in 1558. Described as a supremely skilled diplomat, who was pragmatic as well as being a visionary, Elizabeth's 45-year span as Queen of England was one marked by stability, growth and spectacular achievement.

A Spanish expedition of five ships, led by Portuguese navigator and explorer **Ferdinand Magellan**, set out in 1519 to find a western route to the Spice Islands. Magellan's crews faced down mutiny, deaths, desertions and near starvation to become the first Europeans to cross the Pacific from east to west. By 1522, Magellan had been slain and only one of the five ships made it back to Spain.



The Columbine High School football team won Colorado's Class 5A state championship in December, bringing triumph to a school mired in tragedy. The 21-14 win over Cherry Creek High School came just eight months after the April 20 massacre, in which two seniors at the Littleton school killed 12 students and a teacher before committing suicide. Although the heartache of the tragic event will likely never subside, the gridiron success gave many in the school and community solace as they tried to put the pieces of their lives back together.



David Zalubowski/AP



Tiger Woods went on a golfing rampage in 1999, compiling incredible numbers en route to completing one of the most successful individual seasons in PGA history. Woods won eight PGA tournaments, equalling the mark set by Johnny Miller in 1974, and capped off the season with four straight victories. His winnings totaled \$6.6 million, an all-time best in professional golf. Woods added two more victories to his winning streak to start the 2000 season before losing at the Buick Invitational in February.



Michael Green/AP

In the early 1500s, scientific scholars still held to the idea that the universe was geocentric, with a stationary Earth placed at the center of several concentric, rotating spheres, each containing either a single planet, the sun or all the stars. For **Nicolaus Copernicus**, that theory did not add up. Shortly before his death in 1543, Copernicus published his argument, contending that the universe was heliocentric, with the stars and planets revolving around the sun.

Pope Gregory XIII commissioned a new calendar in 1582 to make up for lost time. The lost time was attributed to an imperfection in Julius Caesar's original calendar, which was instituted in 46 B.C. Caesar's calendar left 11 minutes unaccounted for each year, and by 1545 had resulted in the vernal equinox being 10 days off. Thus, Pope Gregory had 10 days cut from the year, resulting in an immediate jump from Oct. 4, 1582, to Oct. 15, 1582.



winter
gg

December 1

December 7

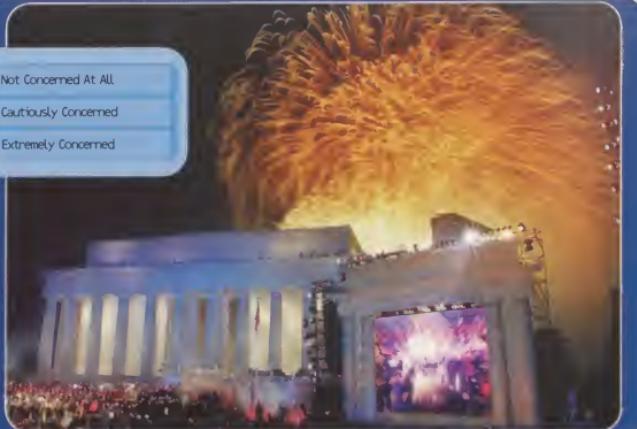
December 25

you said...

In relation to the anticipated Y2K problems, how concerned were you?

72% Not Concerned At All
26% Cautiously Concerned
2% Extremely Concerned

After predictions of the Apocalypse spurred years of preparations and precautionary spending in excess of \$500 billion worldwide, the year 2000 came without incident. Y2K brought only minor glitches despite concerns over a technologically triggered Doomsday. As celebration of the new year subsided, there was growing criticism of the media, the government and a multitude of entrepreneurs for their part in the Y2K hysteria. Also at issue was the question of the new millennium, with purists arguing that it was still a year away.



Scott Applewhite/AP

Supplied by AP



In the highest-scoring Sugar Bowl game ever played, top-ranked Florida State outlasted No. 2 Virginia Tech, 46-29, to claim the National Championship. The Seminoles trailed the Hokies late in the third quarter before scoring 18 unanswered points for the win. Florida State ended the season with a perfect 12-0 record and became the first team to start and finish a season ranked No. 1 since the preseason ratings system began in 1950.



MILLENNIUM XVII CENTURY

English physicist and mathematician **Isaac Newton** was the 17th Century's most significant genius. His quest for answers gave us the law of universal gravitation, calculus, a new theory of color and light, and the three laws of motion that form the basis of modern physics. Intelligent and skillful, Newton unified the discoveries of Galileo, Kepler and others, formalizing and modifying physical science.

King James I granted a charter to open the Americas in 1606, making way for settlement in the New World by European immigrants. The first American colony, **Jamestown**, was established in 1607. Life there was not pleasant with settlers having to contend with harsh weather, sometimes hostile natives, disease and food short-

ages. It took its toll and, six months after their first landings, the original 600 settlers had been reduced to a mere 60.

The first newspaper appeared in Strasbourg, Germany, in 1609. Published weekly, the *Relation* was followed by other newspapers printed with movable type in England, Italy and the Netherlands. These newspapers were costly to produce and were printed for the wealthy and educated readers. It wasn't until the mid-1800s when the American "penny press" made newspapers available to the general public.

The birth of the telescope can be traced to Italian astronomer, physicist and mathematician **Galileo Galilei**, who in 1609 built a telescope and made several profound astronomical discoveries, finding that four large moons orbited Jupiter, Venus had phases and the sun had spots. Galileo published his



SCOTT KELLY/SHUTTERSTOCK



Pro Bowl linebacker Roy Lewis of the Baltimore Ravens was charged with murder in February in the stabbing deaths of two people outside an Atlanta nightclub just a few hours after Super Bowl XXXIV was in the books. Lewis, the NFL's leading tackler in 1999, became the second NFL player to be charged with murder in a span of 30 days. In January, Carolina Panthers wide receiver Roe Corruth was charged with first-degree murder in the shooting death of Cherrica Adams, who was pregnant with their son. At the time, Corruth had the distinction of being the only active NFL player to be charged with murder in the league's history. Lewis and Corruth both pleaded "not guilty" to their respective murder charges and were awaiting trial.

After months of speculation and a whole lot of political maneuvering, First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton formally announced her candidacy for the U.S. Senate in February. Running for the seat being vacated by Sen. Daniel Patrick

Moynihan, D-New York, Clinton was prepared to face opposition from Rudolph Giuliani, the Republican mayor of New York. Although Giuliani had not officially entered the race, rumors to that effect had been circulating for nearly 18 months. Polls showed Giuliani with a slight overall lead over

Clinton, who was being criticized for the short term of her residency in the Empire State. Political analysts expected the Clinton/Giuliani Senate race to be the most expensive in the nation's history, and possibly the most vicious.



Bebeto Matthews/AP



Kevork Djansezian/AP

HBO's new smash hit, "The Sopranos," had a big night at the 57th Annual Golden Globe Awards in January. The show, which follows the life and times of a New Jersey mob family, earned four Golden Globes for its first season on the air. James Gandolfini and Edie Falco won trophies for best actor and best actress in a drama series, while Nancy Marchand won for best supporting actress. "The Sopranos" also won the Golden Globe for best drama series.



views, but was later forced to recant his findings before a Catholic Church tribunal in 1633.

Paying the price of cloth and trinkets, Dutch settlers led by **Peter Minuit** purchased the 22-square-mile Manhattan island from Canarsee Delaware Indians in 1626. The land deal was a steal for Minuit's group, considering that at the end of the 20th Century Manhattan was estimated to be worth \$143 billion.



Archive Photos

Winter



January 18 — *Opie & Anthony* host and co-creator Mike Myers announced he would leave the highly rated series, but not before increasing his writing and better concentrating on full-time improv. (Mike Myers's disease has reportedly postponed the show, briefly since you last saw him last year when he hosted the show with the degenerative neurological disorder. Fox said he would leave the show at the end of the season.) In February, ABC came to terms with Charlie Sheen to replace Fox as deputy mayor and earned the show's contract through 2001.

January 19 — The Washington Wizards announced the hiring of former Hall of Famer Michael Jordan as the team's president of basketball operations, and that he would also become a part-owner. The announcement came just a day after the 36-year-old retirement from the Chicago Bulls last January. Jordan, 36, led the Bulls to an NBA championship, won five straight NBA titles with 10 scoring titles during his remarkable career. The Wizards' announcement had not experienced a lot of success for more than two decades and Jordan's powerful personality and vision is widely seen as strategically meant to bring positive attention to the franchise.

January 19 — A raging fire broke out in a seven-story University dormitory, as thousands of students slept, killing three and injuring 50. One student leapt from windows, while others fled into the freezing cold in only their pajamas. The blaze struck Baldwin Hall, a six-story dorm at about 4:30 a.m., likely burning in a third floor locker. The cause had not been determined. It was later reported that because of a series of false alarms the previous semester, many of the more than 600 students in the building, at the time of the fire ignored the fire alarm thinking it was another prank.



Carlos Santana, the 52-year-old singer/guitarist who played at the original Woodstock in 1969, ruled the 42nd Annual Grammy Awards in February. The rock legend took home eight Grammys for his 1999 album, "Supernatural," including one for best rock album and two for the single "Smooth" featuring Matchbox 20's Rob Thomas. Santana's eight Grammys were the most won by a single performer in the history of the awards, tying the record set by Michael Jackson in 1983. Joining Santana as multiple Grammy winners were the Dixie Chicks and Sting, both winning two awards each. The Dixie Chicks' "Fly" was named best country album, while Sting's "Brand New Day" earned the Grammy for best pop album.



Kathy Willens/AP

you said...

What was your favorite album of the year?

1. Backstreet Boys - "Millennium"
2. Dixie Chicks - "Fly"
3. Kid Rock - "Devil Without A Cause"
4. Creed - "Human Clay"
5. Blink 182 - "Enema Of The State"



Vice President Al Gore and former New Jersey Sen. Bill Bradley had the luxury of only worrying about each other as Election 2000 heated up with the primaries in February. Polls in the head-to-head race showed Gore with a commanding 64 percent to 26 percent lead over Bradley. Overall, Gore was behind in the polls against Texas Gov. George W. Bush, the leading Republican candidate, with Bush holding a 50 percent to 46 percent lead. History was also working against the vice president, considering only four sitting vice presidents — John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, Martin Van Buren and George Bush — had ever been elected directly to the presidency.



MILLENNIUM XVIII CENTURY

Revolution characterized the times in the 18th Century with both North America and France fighting in the name of liberty. In April 1775, British regulars engaged militia at Lexington and Concord, Mass., to set off the **American Revolution**. After seven years of war, the crown was defeated and American freedom was won.

France was ripe for revolution in 1789, the country bankrupt from backing the American Revolution, its citizens facing starvation. King Louis XVI and his queen, Marie Antoinette,

were oblivious to how bad things were, and eventually lost their heads for their ignorance.

James Watt's invention of the single-action **steam engine** in 1769 proved to be the key event in another revolution - the Industrial Revolution. Further refinements by Watt and his partners between 1775 and 1800 resulted in the rotary-action engine. These developments single-handedly revolutionized industry and sparked increased productivity.

During the summer of 1776, in the midst of a revolution, the Second Continental Congress drafted and



Kirk Tropf/Alamy



David Letterman returned to his late-night talk show five weeks after having heart surgery in January. Taking it slow at first, the 52-year-old host mixed in his own appearances with guest hosts as he continued to recover. Letterman underwent an emergency quintuple bypass operation after a test revealed a blocked artery. CBS received a substantial boost in ratings as a result of Letterman's quick return, which happened in the midst of February sweeps.

Patrick Pagnana/AP

Chris O'Meara/AP



NASCAR Winston Cup driver Dale Jarrett captured his third Daytona 500 victory in eight years, matching Bobby Allison's total and leaving him behind only Richard Petty and Cale Yarborough for all-time wins in NASCAR's biggest race. Jarrett led 89 of the 200 laps and passed Johnny Benson four laps from the end, taking advantage of two late cautions. Dominant during the week leading up to the 500, Jarrett easily won the pole position in time trials and dominated the field in a 25-lap race for last year's top qualifiers.

The dark comedy, "American Beauty," which explored the ramifications of letting suburban angst go unchecked, was nominated for eight Oscars in February, more than any other film. Kevin Spacey and Annette Bening were nominated as best actor and best actress, respectively. The movie also earned nominations for best picture, best director, best cinematography and best score.



Supplied by AP

adopted the Declaration of Independence, "the unanimous Declaration of the thirteen United States of America." Penned by 33-year-old Virginia delegate Thomas Jefferson, the Declaration was meant to explain the American colonies' break with Britain. It listed the offenses of King George III, ranging from

restriction of trade to the use of foreign mercenaries. Since its inception, the Declaration of Independence has become the world's most emulated government document.

Mozart, Bach, Beethoven. A child prodigy. An under-appreciated genius. A consummate composer. A century indulged with musical mastery. All three made their mark in the 18th Century, leaving behind legacies that will more than likely linger forever.



Archive Photos

Popperfoto/Archive Photos

winter

January 21 — A cyclone caused widespread damage following winter storms provided a chance to make peace with God. Sponsored by London-based Premier Christian Radio, the 24-hour television programme began this week, encouraging people to pray for agreement to keep up the blue sky, thumbs-up, refreshment and leaves. Visitors to www.prayforleaves.co.uk were invited this weekend to type in what God should do when this confession was over. The web site made via demands for penance in a public admission, the Roman Catholic Church, condemned the idea.

January 31 — Commisoner Bill Belichick handed out the suspension and \$20,000 fine against Atlanta Braves pitcher John Rocker for the racist and homophobic remarks he made in a Spring Training mishap. The suspension was to fulfill the beginning of spring training and extend through the first 28 days of the season. Belichick also ordered the 25-year-old relief pitcher to enroll in sensitivity classes and banned him from even being present during spring training. Rocker and the Braves' organization began an appeal in February to overturn the decision. Rocker publicly apologized for the comments, but said he believed the penalty was excessive and hoped on appeal it would be overturned or at least reduced significantly.

February 3 — The World Wrestling Federation announced it would form a professional football league with plans to begin play in February 2001. WWF officials said the league would be known as the XFL, indicating that the "X" would stand for "exciting" and "exhilarating," and would function as a spinoff on entertainment. The XFL will use helmet cameras so that viewers can have greater access to activities on the sidelines compared to NFL broadcasts. At the time of the announcement, 12 cities had signed on to field teams including New York, Los Angeles, San Francisco, Miami, Orlando, Fla., and Washington, D.C.



you said...

Who was the hero of the year?

1. Kurt Warner
2. Christopher Reeve
3. Mark McGuire
4. Bill Clinton
5. Walter Payton

The surprising St. Louis Rams shacked the world first with a 13-3 season and then by rallying to the team's first world championship with a 23-16 win over the Tennessee Titans in Super Bowl XXXIV in January. The Rams' success had a great deal to do with their explosive offense, which was led by first-year quarterback Kurt Warner. A former star for the Iowa Barnstormers in the upstart Arena Football League, Warner took full advantage of his break in the NFL en route to earning League MVP and Super Bowl MVP honors. Notable was the fact that just two years before Warner's storybook season he was out of football and stocking shelves at a grocery store in Iowa.

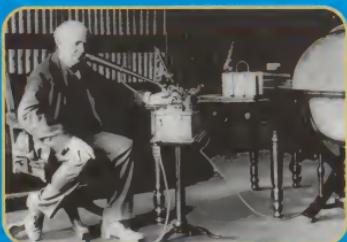


Alaska Airlines Flight 261 lost control and plunged into the ocean off southern California in February, killing all 88 people aboard. Investigators were looking into an unexplained loud noise picked up on the plane's cockpit voice recorder about a minute before it crashed. Early speculation was that a bomb might have been the source of the noise, but that was later ruled out by investigators. The Alaska Airlines crash was one of several air disasters or mishaps that occurred in late 1999 and early 2000.



MILLENNIUM XIX CENTURY

The "method of invention" was said to be the 19th Century's greatest invention. At the center was **Thomas Edison**, who in 1879, gave humans the power to create light without fire by inventing a long-lasting, affordable incandescent lamp. Edison didn't stop there. His other notable inventions included the phonograph, movie camera, and microphone. In addition, he had a hand in the development of television and the telephone. Edison died 52 years after lighting up the world, and on the night following his funeral, Americans dimmed their lights to honor him.



Popperfoto/Archive Photos

Railroads and other industrialized machines brought the **invading white man** into the western plains of North America, where tribes of Native Americans were living in harmony. Faced with the loss of their land, resistance was inevitable. A combined force of Sioux and Cheyenne annihilated Gen. George Custer's cavalry at Little Bighorn in 1876, provoking brutal reprisals. While the surviving Indians were herded into reservations, some were offered roles in a theatrical fantasy. In 1883, Buffalo Bill organized



A field of nine candidates quickly became three in the Republican race for the White House with Texas Gov. George W. Bush, Arizona Sen. John McCain and Alan Keyes still standing in February. McCain gained momentum in Election 2000 with a surprise win over Bush in the New Hampshire primary, but lost it immediately when Bush bested him two weeks later in South Carolina. Overall, Bush was leading McCain in the polls by 58 percent to 31 percent, with the remaining 11 percent being spread out among Keyes and Reform Party candidate Pat Buchanan.

Richard Farnsworth, a 79-year-old farmer stuntman, became the oldest actor to get an Academy Award nomination when he was singled out for his work in the movie "The Straight Story" in February. The nomination was Farnsworth's second for best actor, coming 22 years after he earned a nod for "Caveman" in 1977. Prior to Farnsworth, Henry Fonda had been the oldest leading actor when he was nominated for his role in "On Golden Pond" at age 76. Also notable was the fact that the 72nd Annual Academy Awards would feature the third-youngest person ever nominated for supporting actor, 11-year-old Haley Joel Osment of "The Sixth Sense."

Supplied by AP



Doug Kanter/AP



Fans of the legendary musical, "Cats," the longest-running production in Broadway history, were saddened to learn in February that the show would close the following June after a record-breaking 7,397 performances. The Andrew Lloyd Webber musical would make its final curtain call on June 25, nearly two decades after it opened at New York City's Winter Garden Theater in October 1982. "Cats" played to more than 10 million theatergoers on Broadway, tallying an estimated \$380 million in ticket sales. However, officials reported receipts had dwindled since 1997, at times falling to as low as 50 percent capacity. Those needing their fix of the feline musical would still have the London production, which had been playing there since 1981.

the first of his Wild West Shows which would tour the world for the next 30 years.

Charles Darwin developed one of the most important scientific theories of the millennium. Published in 1859, his theories of evolution and natural selection, although widely accepted today, still provoke controversy. Yet Darwinism remains one of the most successful scientific theories ever generated.

The issue of slavery in the western territories helped trigger a **civil war in the United States** in 1861. Slavery was abandoned in the industrialized north, opposed by President Abraham Lincoln. In the agricultural south, where slavery was embraced, 11

southern states seceded and formed the Confederacy. The north prevailed in the war, which claimed more than 600,000 lives.



Archive Photos

winter

February 11 — *Who Wants to Marry a Multimillionaire?*

special, twice-daily, Tom Arnold, who used to be married to Roseanne, *reunited* in February to find a bride. (See his web site, www.marrytom.com.) Arnold announced he was looking for an attractive single woman of child-bearing age, who was good with children and self-confident enough to wear a bathing suit. Biographical information on the 40-year-old actor, who had appeared in 26 movies, including the Arnold Schwarzenegger blockbuster "True Lies" and the Hugh Grant comedy "Notting Hill," applicants were asked to write an essay and also to upload a *self-portrait* photo. In its first two weeks, the site received more than 75,000 responses.

February 14 — Women's groudbreaking *social contract* infiltrated over the FOX television network's show, "Who Wants to Marry a Multimillionaire?" which featured a multimillionaire selecting a bride from a group of women providers before him in swimsuits and wedding gowns. However, criticism was the least of worries for creators of the show. Shortly after the broadcast, it was learned that the groom had been under a restraining order in 1991 for allegedly hitting and threatening to kill his ex-wife. Officials said that a background check had not revealed information to that effect. FOX subsequently conceded a planned rerun of the show and the bride announced she would be seeking an annulment.

February 28 — An avalanche hit

Mount Washington, New England's highest peak, sweeping two skiers down the mountain to their deaths. The accident was said to have occurred due to wind gusts of excess of 60 mph and visibility of only one-sixteenth of a mile from blowing snow and freezing fog. The 6,288-foot mountain was the site of 211 mph winds on April 12, 1934. It was later reported that the two victims failed to check conditions on the mountain that day and, if they had, would have been told to stay away.



MILLENNIUM XX CENTURY

The first manned flight of a heavier-than-air craft by the Wright brothers in 1903 was a monumental benchmark, achieving one of humanity's wildest dreams. On a pleasant December day, Orville Wright took to the sky for 12 seconds over the sand dunes of Kitty Hawk, N.C., in an airplane he designed with his brother, Wilbur. Like kids with a new toy, the two brothers, bicycle mechanics by trade, took turns flying the craft made of wood, wire and cloth, at one point keeping it aloft for 59 seconds. The Wright brothers' craft, which they called the Flyer, made what was once considered impossible possible and opened the heavens for the future advancement of flight. Those advancements happened very quickly with nearly all the elements of the modern airplane in place a mere 15 years after Orville and Wilbur's historic day at Kitty Hawk.



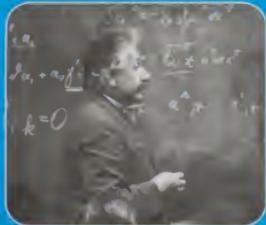
John Daniels/AP



Supplied by AP

Henry Ford may not have invented the automobile, but he was responsible for the beginning of the automobile age. In 1908, Ford unveiled the Model T, a car for the great multitude priced at \$850. He eventually sold more than 15 million of them, using revolutionary mass production methods that turned out a vehicle every 24 seconds. Before the Ford assembly line and the Model T, the automobile had just been a toy of the rich. It soon became a necessity of life, spawning gas stations, superhighways and traffic jams around the world.

Archive Photos



World War I, also called the Great War, began in 1914 when a Serbian nationalist assassinated Archduke Ferdinand, heir to the Austro-Hungarian throne. Austria-Hungary immediately declared war on Serbia, which prompted other declarations of war, ultimately leading to every major power in Europe getting involved. On one side were the Allies — chiefly France, Britain, Russia, and the U.S. — and on the other were the Central Powers made up of Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Turkey. The war, considered one of the bloodiest in history, ended with the signing of the armistice in 1918. In the end, 10 million were dead and 20 million wounded. The unprecedented bloodshed contributed to a general loathing against war, leading many to support multinational disarmament pacts and the newly formed League of Nations.



Archive Photos



Supplied by AP



Express Newspapers/Archive Photos

Einstein. Freud. Picasso. Three fascinating men who left an indelible mark on the 20th Century. Albert Einstein revolutionized the theory of light, greatly advanced physics and scientific inquiry, and changed forever man's view of the universe. Sigmund Freud developed free association, broadened our view of human nature and sexuality and accelerated the age of self-examination. Pablo Picasso helped create Cubism, pioneered innovations in sculpture and lithography and experimented with new media. All three captivated imaginations around the world with their magnificent intelligence and compelling personalities.

The stock market crash in 1929 was an eerie harbinger of the Great Depression, which hung like a black cloud over the 1930s. Between Sept. 3 and Oct. 29, the Dow lost 120 points or nearly one third. That final day, dubbed "Black Tuesday" in the press, wiped out everyone as stock markets all over Europe reacted to the sell off. And, when it seemed like it couldn't get any worse, it did. On Nov. 13, the Dow closed at 199. The New York Stock

Exchange fell from \$80 billion to \$50 billion between Sept. 3 and Nov. 13. The damage was done and the Great Depression began.

Joe Rosenthal/AP



Supplied by AP



Archive Photos

The horrific actions of Germany's Adolf Hitler and his Nazi regime against the Jews of Europe, coupled with similar totalitarian regimes in Japan and Italy, launched the Second World War in 1939. With the Japanese bombing of Pearl Harbor in 1941, the U.S. joined Great Britain and the Allied Forces to fight the aggression of the Axis powers. Decisive victories by the Allies led to Italy's surrender in 1943. Germany surrendered unconditionally in 1945, when Hitler committed suicide and the German resistance collapsed. Later that year, with U.S. troops poised to invade Japan's home islands, President Harry Truman ordered the dropping of the atomic bomb on Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Japan quickly announced its surrender, thereby bringing to an end the costliest war in history.

Supplied by AP

In 1928, General Electric engineer Ernst F.W. Alexanderson laid the crude foundation for television, one of the most powerful, influential media in history. Nineteen years later, with the broadcast of the 1947 World Series, television's growing importance was clinched. By the end of the 1950s, nearly 90 percent of U.S. homes could boast at least one TV set. The world no longer needed to be imagined — now it could be seen and heard.

you said...

What was the most important discovery of the 20th century?

1. Computers
2. Cars
3. The Internet
4. Television
5. Medical Advances

20th century

1901 **Alaska** became a state, signaling a new century.

1906 **San Francisco** was devastated by a major earthquake.

1908 **Woodrow Wilson** was elected president.

1912 **Woodrow Wilson** was re-elected president.

1914 **World War I** began, involving Britain and France.

1917 **U.S.参議院** declared war on Germany.

1918 **World War I** ended with the Armistice.

1920 **Women** got the right to vote.

1929 **Wall Street** crash triggered the Great Depression.

1937 **China** and Japan entered the Sino-Japanese War.

1937 **Boeing** flew the *Stratocruiser* around the world for 4 years.

1938 **Albert Einstein** developed the atomic bomb.

1939 **Dr. Jonas Salk** developed a polio vaccine.

1940 **U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt** was elected for a third term.

1941 **Japan** attacked Pearl Harbor.

1945 **Germany** surrendered to the Allies.

1945 **Japan** surrendered to the Allies.

1947 **Jackie Robinson** broke racial barriers in baseball.

1948 **Albert Einstein** received the Nobel Prize.

1949 **Albert Einstein** received the Nobel Prize.



MILLENNIUM

XX CENTURY

Supplied by AP

Racial unrest simmered to a boil in 1955 with two key events sparking one of the greatest civil rights movements in history. The first involved a young black girl named Linda Brown, who questioned her inability to attend the school nearest her home. *Brown v. The Board of Education of Topeka* eventually resulted in a Supreme Court decision banning segregation in public schools and opening the door to equal access to education for blacks in America. That was just the beginning. A short time after the Brown decision, Rosa Parks, a 42-year-old black woman, refused to give up her seat to a white passenger on a bus in Montgomery, Ala., and was arrested. Martin Luther King Jr. got involved at that point and carried the torch for his people until he was assassinated 13 years later.



you said

Who was the most influential person of the 20th century?

1. Martin Luther King, Jr.
2. Albert Einstein
3. Mother Teresa
4. Princess Diana
5. Adolf Hitler



Supplied by AP

The aspirations of a young leader and a supporting nation come to an abrupt halt on Nov. 22, 1963, when President John F. Kennedy was assassinated by rifle fire while being driven in an open car through the streets of Dallas. JFK's assassination shocked a nation and profoundly changed the way people viewed the world. At 46, Kennedy became the fourth president to be assassinated and the eighth to die in office. The alleged assassin, 24-year-old Lee Harvey Oswald, was shot and killed by nightclub owner Jack Ruby two days later, leaving behind only suspicions of what his motives were and whether or not he was the lone gunman. Although the Warren Commission determined Oswald probably acted alone, the House Select Committee on Assassinations concluded in 1979 that a conspiracy was likely and that it may have involved organized crime. These differing opinions served to bolster the black cloud of controversy that has continued to surround the Kennedy assassination.



Express Newspapers/Archive Photos

Electrifying audiences with their fresh musical talents and boyish good looks, the Beatles took America by storm with their inaugural performance on "The Ed Sullivan Show" in February 1964. Rock music would never be the same as the English quartet's music evolved from a tight rhythm and blues to allusive lyricism. The impact of the Beatles revolutionized the music industry and, in one way or another, touched the lives of all who heard them. The Beatles dominated the 1960s far beyond their music, transforming the world by ushering in a societal shift in which youth culture assertively took over and began to thrive.



Supplied by AP

The first U.S. troops were committed to Vietnam in 1961 by President John F. Kennedy at the request of South Vietnamese President Ngo Dinh Diem. Their mission was to help fight North Vietnamese communists controlled by Ho Chi Minh and southern rebels of the Viet Cong. The number of troops committed was minimal at first, and the American people accepted the action, believing it was necessary to halt the spread of communism. By 1968, U.S. troop build-up in Vietnam would reach its peak of 549,000 troops. Although there had been notable anti-war sentiment from the beginning, opposition eventually grew to a two to one margin. By 1973, when the war ended and U.S. troops returned home, two to three million Vietnamese and 58,000 Americans had been killed.

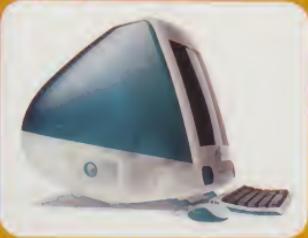
Supplied by AP



What was once thought to be impossible became a reality in 1969, when Apollo 11 astronauts set foot on the moon. Those historic steps were taken by Edwin E. Aldrin Jr. and Neil A. Armstrong, who descended to the moon's surface and landed their lunar module in the Sea of Tranquility. Armstrong stepped first and addressed the world with what has become one of the best-known phrases of modern times: "That's one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind." It was also a giant leap ahead for Americans in the space race with Russia. Six additional Apollo missions were made before the end of the program in December 1972 and, with the exception of Apollo 13, all landed successfully on the lunar surface.

The explosion of the space shuttle Challenger in 1986, resulting in the deaths of all seven astronauts aboard, horrified the nation and the world and dealt a severe blow to NASA's fledgling shuttle program. Challenger exploded 73 seconds after liftoff from Kennedy Space Center in Florida, as millions watched on television. A presidential panel determined that the fatal flaw was not in Challenger, but rather a faulty sealant ring in one of two 149-foot-tall solid rocket boosters. Dead as a result of the worst disaster in the history of space exploration was Christa McAuliffe, who was to be the first teacher and private citizen in space, and crew members Frank Scobee, Michael Smith, Judith Resnik, Ellison Onizuka, Ronald McNair and Gregory Jarvis. Two years passed before another shuttle was launched into space.

Supplied by AP



The first widely used commercial computer, Univac I, was built in 1951 for the U.S. Census Bureau. From vacuum tube logic gates to transistors to microchips, powerful desktop computers and tiny microprocessors helped shape late 20th Century life. Found everywhere by 1990, computers evolved to move the world out of the space age and into the Internet-driven information age. With the Internet and electronic mail, or e-mail, all corners of the globe were now at the computer-user's fingertips.

20th century

1950	U.S. and Soviet Union begin the Space Race.
1953	U.S. and Soviet Union begin the Nuclear Arms Race.
1957	Soviet Union launches Sputnik.
1961	U.S. launches Mercury.
1962	U.S. launches Gemini.
1964	U.S. launches Apollo.
1965	U.S. launches Skylab.
1968	U.S. launches the Moon Landing.
1973	U.S. launches the Space Shuttle.
1974	U.S. launches the Hubble Space Telescope.
1978	U.S. launches the Voyager Spacecraft.
1981	U.S. launches the Space Shuttle.
1985	U.S. launches the Hubble Space Telescope.
1986	U.S. launches the Space Shuttle.
1989	U.S. launches the Space Shuttle.
1991	U.S. launches the Space Shuttle.
1993	U.S. launches the Space Shuttle.
1997	U.S. launches the Space Shuttle.



Lasting IMPRESSIONS



Supplied by AP

George C. Scott, the masterful actor and director best known for his portrayal of Gen. George S. Patton, died in September of an aortic aneurysm. Scott's role in the 1970 film, "Patton," earned him the Oscar for best actor, an award he refused to accept because of his belief that the Academy Awards were offensive and innately corrupt. Scott received two other Academy Award nominations for best supporting actor in 1962 and for best actor in 1972, and also won an Emmy for his work in the 1998 remake of "12 Angry Men," which aired on cable television.

Susan Sterner/AP



Supplied by AP

Clayton Moore, *o.k.a.* the Lone Ranger, died in July of a heart attack at the age of 85. The masked hero of television and films became an American icon, racing on horseback to the "William Tell Overture" and with his customary cry of "Hi-Yo, Silver!" Having been an acrobat before becoming an actor, Moore was also well-known for doing his own stunts on film.

John Swart/AP



Walter Payton, the NFL's all-time rushing leader, died of cancer in November, just 10 months after announcing he had a rare liver disease and would need a transplant to live. Nicknamed "Sweetness" for his effortless running style and caring personality, the Hall of Fame running back set 10 all-time NFL records, including most career rushing yards, 16,726, and most career carries of 3,838. Payton's single-game mark of 275 rushing yards against Minnesota in 1977 is a record many believe will never be broken.



"Peanuts" creator Charles Schulz, 77, died of colon cancer on Feb. 19, just one day before his farewell comic strip was to appear in Sunday newspapers. In his final daily strip, published in early January, Schulz thanked millions of fans all over the world for embracing the comic strip he had penned for more than 50 years. At the end of its historic run, "Peanuts" appeared in 2,600 newspapers in 75 countries and 21 languages, making it the world's most widely read comic strip.

Reed Saxon/AP



Basketball legend Wilt Chamberlain, 63, died in October of an apparent heart attack. Considered one of the greatest centers to ever play the game, Chamberlain's 100-point game in 1962 remains one of the most revered records in all of sports. His hall-of-fame career with the Philadelphia 76ers and Los Angeles Lakers also includes NBA records for most rebounds in a game, 55, and for averaging over 50 points per game for an entire season.

Rose Bird, 63, California chief justice

Harry Blackmun, 90, Supreme Court justice

John Chafee, 77, U.S. Senator

Craig Claiborne, 79, food critic

Quentin Crisp, 90, writer

Allen Funt, 84, television host

Catfish Hunter, 53, MLB Hall of Famer

Madeline Kahn, 57, actress

Gil Kane, 73, comic book artist

Hedy Lamarr, 86, actress

Tom Landry, 75, NFL coach

Greg Moore, 24, race car driver

Bobby Phills, 30, NBA star

Abraham Polonsky, 88, screenwriter

Mario Puzo, 78, writer

Bill Quackenbush, 77, NHL Hall of Famer

Christopher "Big Pun" Rios, 28, rapper

Derrick Thomas, 33, NFL star

Mel Torme, 73, jazz musician

IN MEMORIUM

'Because you deserve it!'



Forrest "Dusty"
Rhode

Dusty Rhode gave up his retirement and came to us in the fall of 1996 because we needed him. We were a school unexpectedly without a principal at the end of the first month of school. He was a retired principal with many years of experience at Portage High School.

He told us his expectations with firmness. He wanted our best from us. In return, he gave us his best. He never asked more of us than he was prepared to give.

Forrest "Dusty" Rhode read part of the morning announcements nearly every morning. He loved recognizing students and staff for the things they did well. He ended announcements every day with his wish that we have a good day because "You deserve it."

Dusty Rhode changed the climate at MHS for the better. He was a person who liked to personally know each of his teachers. He let them know that their concerns about the school and about students were important to him. He sometimes grabbed lunch in the teacher's lunchroom to find out teachers' opinions.

He also liked to be in the halls meet-

ing and greeting the students before school, between classes, and at lunch. At least twice a week, Rhode went to the cafeteria at lunch and had a cup of coffee while talking to students about the things that they were concerned about.

On the day before Christmas vacation, he went from room to room to wish each teacher and his class a "Merry Christmas."

In the end, he stayed an extra year before retiring again after graduation in 1998. He went back to supervising student teachers for Indiana University and enjoying time with his family. He also continued to work in education as a member of the Portage school board.

When doctors found two tumors in his brain, we all wished him well and hoped that he would beat the cancer. However, it wasn't to be. In November of 1999, he lost the battle.

We mourned the loss of a great educator and friend and remembered all he taught us. Forrest "Dusty" Rhode will be missed by all.

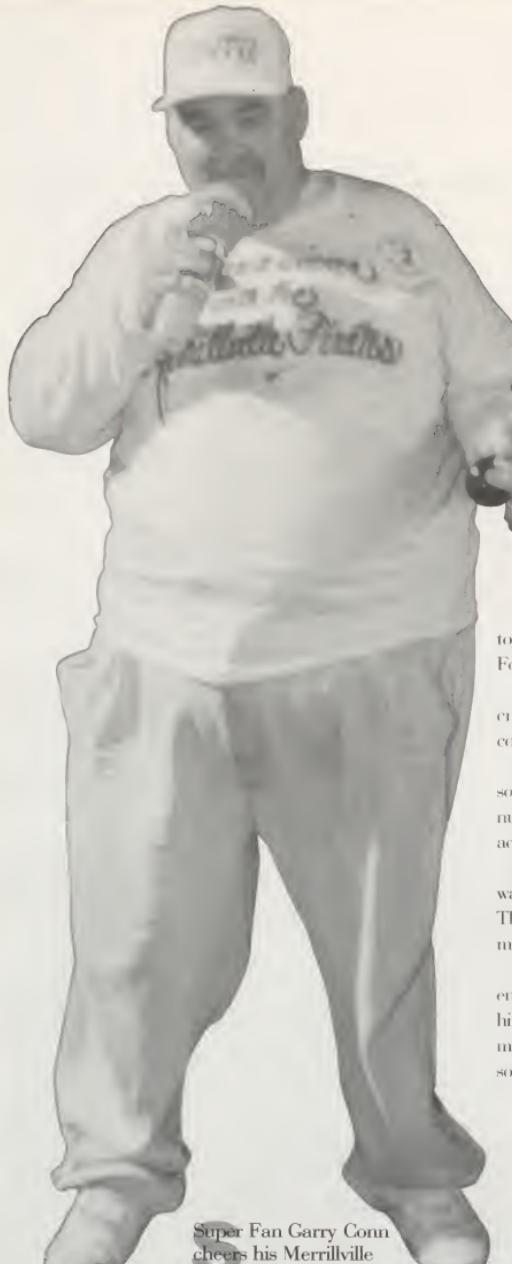
We will miss you.



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COMMUNITY

"COMING TOGETHER is a beginning, keeping together is progress, working together is success." - Henry Ford

JUST AS BEING involved in school and extra curricular activities was important, so was making a contribution to one's community.

SOME PEOPLE helped out the needy by working in soup kitchens. Others decided to volunteer in a hospital or nursing home. Still other individuals took part in church activities.

WHATEVER the job or however much time was spent wasn't as important as the thought and care that went into it. Then, although not necessary, those same people you helped may one day help you in return.

STAYING INVOLVED in one's community helped enrich one's own life as well as the lives of the people around him. Besides knowing that it was the right thing to do, one might also get that warm feeling inside knowing that he, in some way, helped change a life, if even just for a moment.

— SPREAD BY TIFFANY STOCHEL AND JACOB CAMP

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Pirates to victory.

The members of the WITT club gather in the arena to present their "Living the Dream" program in remembrance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.



Children from the community gather around the famous pig used in the "Kiss the Pig" contest at SADD's Halloween Fun Fair.



A student asks questions on Career Day. Members of the community come to school to tell students about their jobs each year.

COMMUNITY QUIZ

Fill in the blank:

1. Where could you buy the best pizza?

2. What was your favorite restaurant?

3. What store sold your favorite clothes?

4. What was the best place to hang-out?

5. Where could you get the best deals on your favorite CD's?

6. What was the best place to go tanning?

7. What theater showed the best movies at the best prices?

8. Which fast food restaurant had the best prizes in their kid's meals?



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Vanessa Valle

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in all that you do.

Love,
Mom, Dad, Nocy



Congratulations
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We couldn't be
prouder! You've
only just begun.
Good luck at Purdue!

*We love you,
Mom, Dad, Kelly and Katie*

Ray Keilman

Congratulations, Desiree!



Desiree Roman

We're very
proud of
you.

We love you!
Mom and
Eddie

Lisa Marie Fastero



Lisa Marie Fastero

We are so proud of every-
thing you accomplished.
Have fun cheering at IU.

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Congratulations, Allison



We're very
proud of you.

*Love,
Mom and Claudia*

Allison Neri





Mateo, estamos orgullos
de ti, y esperamos que
siempre siga adelante,
sigue tus sueños siempre.
Nuestro amor y oración,
estarán siempre contigo...

*Con Amor
Mani, Papi
Mita, Miguel y Nala*

Matthew Rivera



CONGRATULATIONS AMY



Amy Lynn Dergo

May all your dreams
come true.

*Love,
Mom and Dad*

Congratulations Jake



3rd
at State!
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Jacob Rodriguez

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**Keep reaching for
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will achieve all
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*Love,
Ann*

Tiffany Helen Stochel



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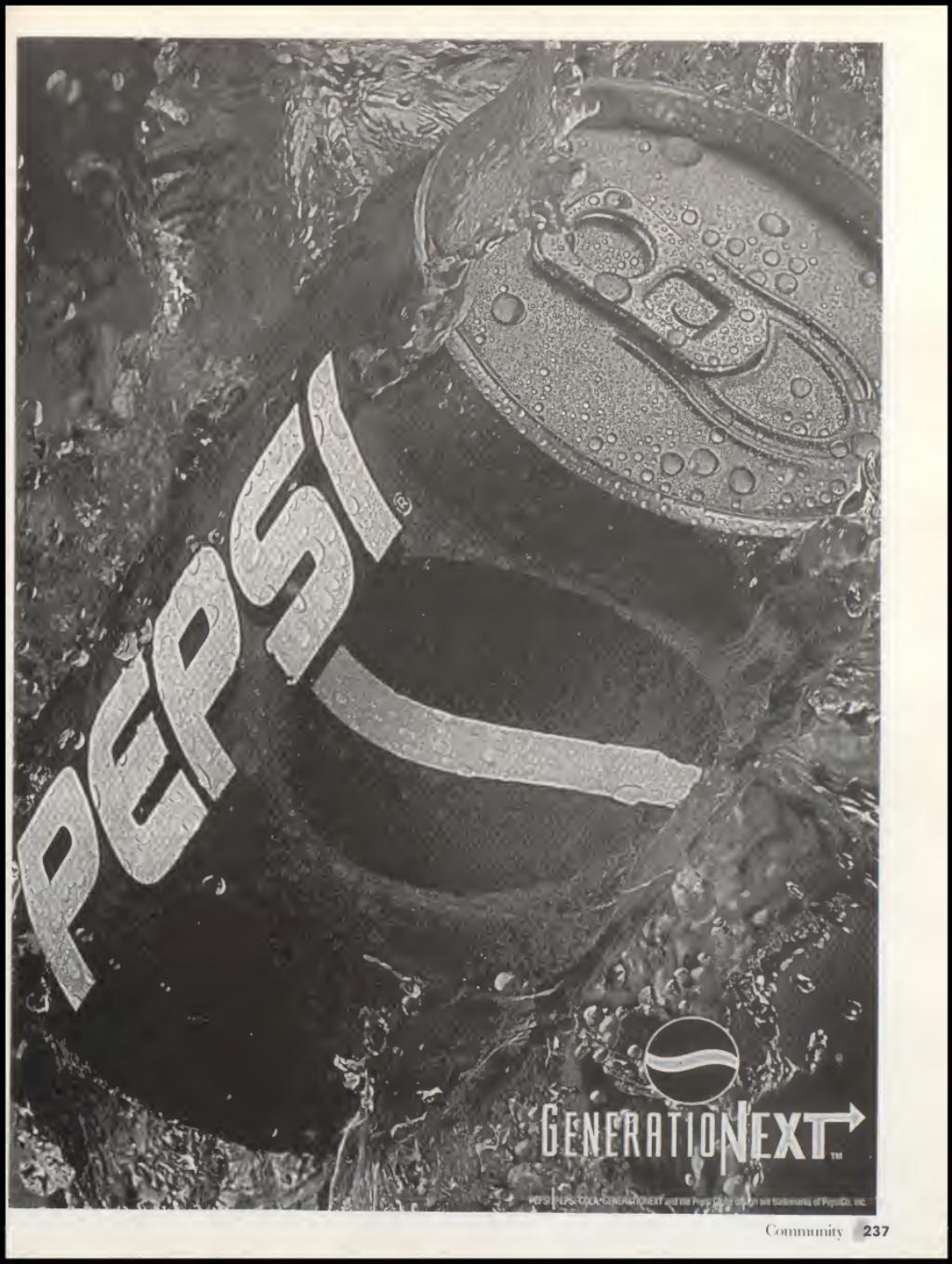
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Tiffany Helen Stochel

I look forward to reading your
byline and watching your future
performances. May all of your
dreams come true.

Mrs. Stanford



Congratulations, Jake!

We love you,

***Mom and Dad
and Cody***

Jacob Camp

JENNIFER,



Jennifer Ellen Yugo

Use your writing talent
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Best wishes,
Mrs. Stanford



Congratulations Dave

Thanks for your
help with the CD.
Good luck at
Purdue Cal.

Merrillvue Staff

David Mesarch

Our baby is all grown up!

We're very proud of you, Amy Lynn.

May all your dreams come true.



Love Always,
Mom, Dad
and
Sister Erin



Amy Lynn Mulloy

Congratulations, Courtney

I am very proud of
you and all of your
accomplishments. I wish
you continued success
at Indiana State as
you pursue your
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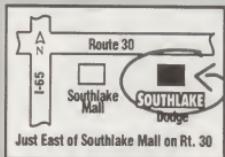
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Student Government sponsors Homecoming activities. Here students participate in the pudding slide, one of the class competition games and load food from the annual Thanksgiving food drive onto a bus for delivery to the food pantry.



Congratulations to the staff of the 2000 Merrillville

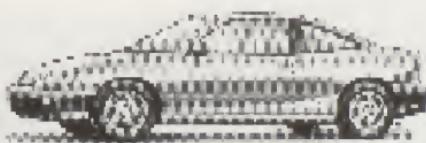
Leaping an
impression

Row 1: Towneka Hammonds, Amanda Laviollette, Lindsey Krumrie, Ciely Harris, Blythe Berolo, Erica Kimble. Row 2: Allison Neri, Michelle Uremovich, Jaci Boger, Lisa Fastro, Krissi Mersot. Row 3: LaCara Bazzel, Jill Bazzel, Rosa Uribe, Mandy Komenda, Nicole Brown, Tiffany Stoehel. Not pictured: Jacob Camp, Amy Mulley, Jenny Villars.

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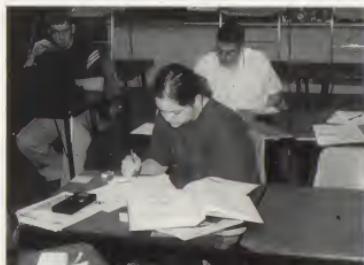
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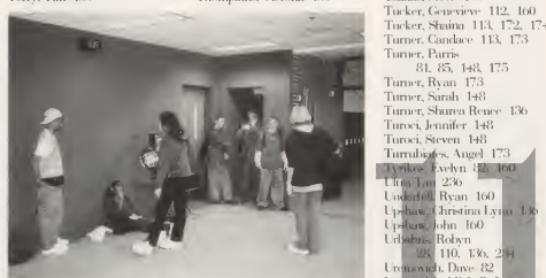
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Seniors celebrate with family and friends following the balloon drop at their graduation. It's finally over.

Looking To the Future

As our school year drew to an end we began to face the changes that next year would bring.

For some of us, it meant looking ahead to college, going into the armed forces, or getting a job. For the underclassmen, it was looking at some of the changes the next school year would bring.



We already knew that we would have two new administrators in the fall. Dean of Students Darren Arberry had accepted a position as wrestling coach at the University of Indianapolis.

Although CAD teacher Mike Krutz was not new to MHS, his position as Assistant Principal to replace Arberry would be different. We also congratulated Assistant Principal Dave Terplin on becoming Principal at Salk Elementary, but wondered who his replacement would be.

At the same time, some popular teachers were leaving after many years of teaching at MHS. Students wondered who would replace teachers Linda Fry, Jan Hughes, Jim Edgcomb, Chuck Carroll, and Mary Clay for the next school year.



Embrace Change

Take time to make goals and change for the better

THE YEAR embraced many new ideas, people, and actions. We were fortunate enough to welcome in new teachers, new students, and new goals.

EACH PERSON developed his dreams and wishes for the future and did his best to achieve them, whether it was in academics, sports, the arts, or in the community.

JUST as the world around us was changing, we also changed, whether we wanted to or not.

WHATEVER or however we changed will affect us as well as others.

THERE-

FORE, this was the time in our lives where we should look at ourselves and decide if we were the kind of people that we were striving to be.

IF NOT, it was not too late to change our values, attitude, or the way we expressed ourselves. Because these were what shaped us and left a lasting impression.

— SPREAD BY TIFFANY STOCHEL AND JACOB CAMP



Gymnast Megan Skoruppa creates a striking pose during her individual floor routine at a gymnastics meet.

Josh Harvorth, Tom Dobes, and Johnathon Perkins are hard at work in the TV studio. MHS Productions taped many concerts as well as presenting the morning announcements.



A student bowls in a wheelchair as a National Disabilities Month Activity.



Teachers James Young and Scott Staley show that students aren't the only ones who can have fun as they playfully fight during cafeteria duty.



Cheesy smiles are a must for the Volveteens after their performance during the Christmas concert.

Aimee Plukas sits outside her classroom, calculator close by, in order to finish a make-up test.

Editor's

After many hours and much hard work, a timepiece is complete

Note

LOOKING back on this year, my mind was clouded with the pictures of many memorable moments, the exciting as well as the traumatic. Everything from the passing periods to the death of our former principal, Mr. Rhode, found a place within the cover of this book.

IT TOOK me much precious time to decide upon a theme that would make an impression on the readers. Therefore, my goal became the theme. I wanted everyone to understand how everything one did or said influenced others. Hopefully, with that message in mind, people will start to make choices to benefit their lives and the lives of those around them.

I WOULD LIKE to thank my staff. I don't want to single members out, so I will say that all of you made me very proud. We crossed some obstacles, but we overcame them.

Your hard work, determination, and cooperation were what produced this timeless memory. I was extremely proud to be the editor of such a wonderful group.

TO MRS. STANFORD—
thank you for everything.

Tiffany Stochel
editor-in-chief

— SPREAD BY TIFFANY STOCHEL
AND JACOB CAMP

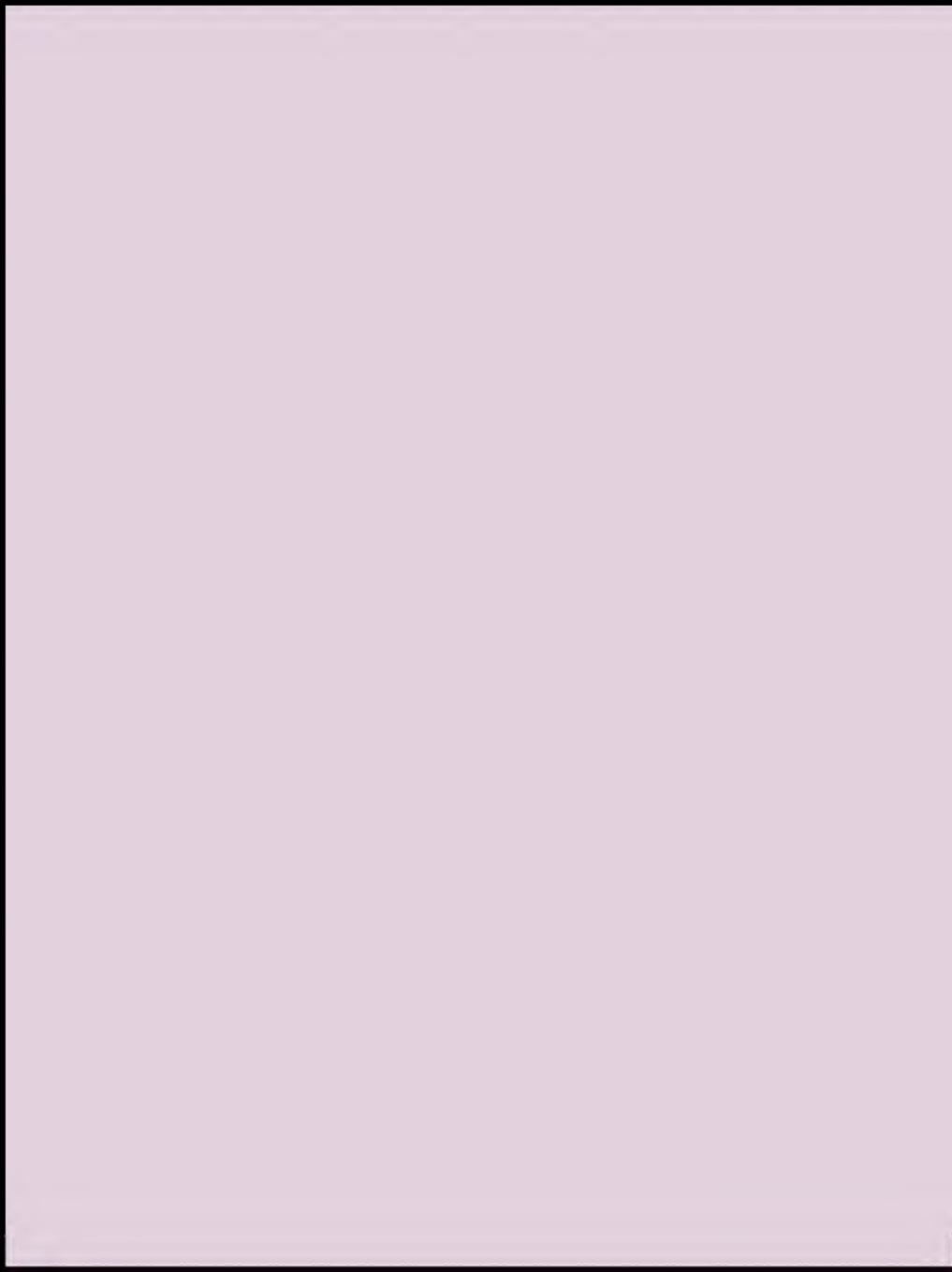
Valedictorian Aleksandar Goreski proudly takes his moment in the spotlight to receive his diploma from Dr. Tony Lux.

Jeanette Bir helps arrange a couple for their picture during the Homecoming Dance. John and Jeanette Bir own Giolas studio, which was present at many events to take pictures. They are to be thanked gratefully for all their help.



Yearbook staff members Lindsey Krumrie and Lisa Fastero help to sort out senior activity forms. This was only one job of the many that the yearbook staff had to successfully complete.







Leaving an impression

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